

FORTUNE'S FOOT-BALL:

OR, THE

A D V E N T U R E S

OF

M E R C U T I O.

FOUNDED ON MATTERS OF FACT.

A NOVEL, IN TWO VOLUMES,

By JAMES BUTLER.

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FORTUNE'S FOOT-BALL.

“**NOTHING** could have increased the agitation of my mind during the remainder of that day : Several times I was tempted to accuse my kind keeper of infidelity ; again I would reproach myself with injustice and ingratitude—In the midst of my reveries the door of my cell flew open, and the keeper beckoned me to follow him : I obeyed without speaking a word—He led me to the outer gate, where stood the Friar.—He unlocked the gate and we sallied forth precipitately.—We went through a narrow street which led to the open country.

“ After we had travelled about two miles, at a pretty round rate, he led us into a wood, and desired us to wait his return in silence. We retired about a hundred yards into the wood and sat down ; the Friar began to return thanks for so successful a beginning, in which I joined him, and, after some preparatory discourse, he informed me that they designed to go to Leon, where he had a brother superior of a Monastery. He then very kindly instructed me how to conduct myself ; pointing out the nearest and most private ways to

Leghorn, where, he observed, I might probably meet with a vessel bound to some port in Great-Britain.

“Our companion then appeared riding one horse, and leading two others saddled: We mounted and rode together about ten English miles, and then halted exactly in the intersection of two roads, where we took an affectionate leave of each other: They proceeded straight forward; and I, agreeably to the directions of my fellow travellers, took the right hand road.

“Having travelled through most parts of Italy in my youthful days, I was not much at a loss; but found the way to Leghorn very readily, where I disposed of the horse to great advantage. Thus, gentlemen and ladies, I have given you a succinct account of all the disasters which has befallen me since I parted with my pupil here; and I assure you I look on my escape as very little short of a miracle.”

They all heartily congratulated him on his good fortune, and, having a fine leading wind and pleasant weather, they spent their time very agreeably, until they had passed the Islands of Majorca and Minorca, and were in expectation of running the straits of Gibraltar without danger or difficulty.

Our hero was, at that period, as happy as he had ever been; he enjoyed the highest felicity in the vivifying conversation of the charming Isabella; and agreea-

ble company of his fellow voyagers : Certain it is, that in this small society, composed as it was of persons of different ages, sexes, countries and religious denominations, there reigned what is rarely, if ever, found in the levees of the most august princes, namely, sincerity : Freedom of sentiment was attended to without censure or disgust ; difference of opinions produced neither ceremony nor contempt ; convivial harmony reverberated from breast to breast, and it was the delight of each to contribute to the satisfaction of the other.

Thus situated, with the firmest confidence of landing safely in his native country in a short space, is it a wonder that the mind of Mercutio was tranquil, and that his rising hopes destroyed the conception of disappointment?—This was the case.

But fortune, that fickle goddess, who delights in tantalizing her votaries, and in sporting with their sensibility, withdrew her amiable smiles, determined to give him one more kick, lest he should suppose himself out of the reach of her heel. They had just lost sight of Majorca when a violent hurricane overtook them, which threw the whole company into the utmost consternation. The captain gave orders for furling the sails with all the expedition possible ; in the mean time, he was obliged to assist at the helm which the violence of the tempest rendered indispensable necessary. In the midst of this dreadful conflict between the contending elements, a sudden and tremendous squall deprived the ship of her

main-top-mast, together with six of her ablest seamen, who were, unfortunately, on the main-top-fail-yard, furling the top-fail.

This was a dreadful stroke, of which the captain was fully sensible; however, he continued to give his orders with composure and firmness; and was obeyed by his men with intrepidity and alacrity. The storm raged sixteen hours, without intermission or abatement, and was succeeded by dark, cloudy weather, and a brisk gale of wind for several days. Every other person on board appeared more concerned for their personal safety than Mercutio, who had, by a long series of misfortunes, disappointments and dangers, become habituated to them; he had acquired an uniformity of temper and a serenity of countenance on all occasions, which amazed his companions, and was peculiar to himself: He displayed, however, on this occasion, a more than ordinary degree of composure, which was absolutely necessary, to inspire Isabella with fortitude to support her in that alarming situation.

Early one morning they were again overtaken by a most tremendous hurricane; heavy squalls of hail, accompanied with dreadful claps of thunder and almost incessant streams of lightning, continued to annoy them until seven in the evening, when the clouds began to disperse; but a heavy western gale continued to blow with unabating rigour, for the space of four days and nights. Their fortitude entirely forsook them! Even

Mercutio had nearly forbore to hope ! The sea rolled in dreadful mountains, so that, considering the shattered condition of the ship, and the loss of the six men, it was little less than a miracle that they were not entombed in the ocean.

At length it pleased God to lull the furious waves into a state of perfect tranquillity ; and the surface of the capacious bed of waters, smooth and transparent, once more met their ravished sight. Soothing as this change certainly was ; yet very serious apprehensions began to arise in their minds, when the captain on taking observation, informed them that they were then within sixty leagues of Candia, a large island in the Mediterranean, belonging to the grand Signior, a noted resort for Pirates.

They consulted on the most expedient and prompt measures to adopt, for their preservation. It was observed by the captain, that should they be attacked by any of those inhuman pirates which infest the Mediterranean, they must inevitably fall victims to their cruelty ; as they were destitute of the means of defence or flight, and he therefore gave it as his opinion, that as the ship was much disabled, it would be best to endeavour to make the island of Sicily, where they might refit, take in fresh provision and water, and refresh themselves in the mean time,

This proposal met the approbation of the whole company ; in consequence of which, the captain gave orders to tack, intending to put into Messina. Though the wind was on the beam, yet they entertained the most sanguine hopes of obtaining the desired object, notwithstanding their speed was much retarded by the craziness of the vessel, which leaked considerably. They stood on this course from half past eight in the morning until evening, and though with all the industry they were able to exert, they could gain but two knots and a half per hour, yet were in tolerable spirits. The horizon had intercepted about half the beauties of the sun when they discovered a vessel bearing after them under all her canvass. When this news was first communicated to the captain he appeared somewhat embarrassed ; however, he encouraged his company with hopes of its being an English ship from the Levant, homeward bound. Notwithstanding these hopes, he crowded all the sail his ship would bear, and bore away for the Straights of Messina.

The darkness of the night prevented the captain from seeing his pursuers, though he remained on deck all night for that purpose ; but he perceived, just at the dawn of day, that notwithstanding his exertions, the vessel had pursued them all night, and were then within a league. The rising sun convinced them to their inexpressible concern, that the vessel they perceived was a Turkish Galley, bearing on them with sails and oars.

Just at that instant, the chief mate from the fore-castle, descried another vessel under crouded sail, which the captain rightly judged belonged to Malta; she was bound to Cephalonia, and was then within about two leagues of our distressed ship's company. The captain gave immediate orders to brace up the yards and lay the Maltese right on board, hoping that by their combined force, they might be able to defeat the infidels who gained on them every moment. The Turks perceived their design, and endeavoured to prevent their junction with the Maltese, by getting between them if possible, for they expected to make prize of the disabled ship, without any resistance, which would certainly have been the case if they had found an opportunity of attacking her singly; for the Christians were unprovided with ammunition for an engagement with an enemy, who were not only well provided with this article, but three times their number. In this critical juncture, the commander of the Maltese, perceiving their distress ordered a gun to be fired to leeward, which our captain answered by a gun, and by hoisting Italian colours.

The Maltese and infidels had the same object in pursuit, namely, that of preventing each other from getting along side of the distressed ship. A degree of maritime skill was displayed by both, on this occasion, seldom equalled and never exceeded; that of the Christians, however, proved superior, for just as the pirate was making a short tack in order to run down between

them, the Maltese poured a heavy broad-side into her, which so disconcerted the Turks that they veered the other way, and dropt astern of the other vessel, determined to revenge their disaster on that defenceless crew before the friendly Maltese could interfere. Mercutio was standing by the ancient staff, when the pirates discharged a volley of small arms, a bullet penetrated his shoulder, and his foot slipping at the same instant, he unfortunately fell over the stern. The pirates saw him fall, and instantly threw out a small boat called a *Permagy* (which they generally carry for that purpose) and three Turks taking up the body of Mercutio, conveyed him on board the Galley. This was done so suddenly that before the Maltese could bring their ship to proper position for discharging another broadside, our hero was on board the pirate, which did no other execution than sink the *Permagy* and the three Turks who had not time to get on board. This, however, had a very good effect, for it struck a panic on the pirates, who, conceiving the Maltese to be much stronger than they really were, tacked precipitately, and sheered off, without so much as looking after their companions, who sunk with the *Permagy* and were seen no more. It was a distinguished favour of Providence that the pirates happened to be mistaken in the opinion they had conceived of the strength of the Maltese, for had they charged but once more they would have discovered their weakness, and consequently, have captured both crews; for they had not another round of ammunition on board. The Maltese hoisted more sail and seemed

anger to give chase; and by this means, they were soon rid of their enemies, who employed every possible means to avoid being overtaken; consequently they were soon out of sight.

The generosity of the Maltese did not rest here. The commander ordered his boat to be hoisted out, and, attended by several young Maltese of distinction, went on board our distressed ship, where they were received with the most unfeigned gratitude. Finding Isabella drowned in tears, bewailing the fate of her beloved Mercutio, they expressed their concern for the sad event in the most pathetic manner, conjuring her, at the same time, as she valued her life, not to give way to immoderate grief; as her husband, perhaps, was alive and well, and added, that if the proper means were employed for his redemption, he might soon be set at liberty. These words seemed to inspire her with new life, she, in some measure recovered her former serenity; and, by the kind attention of the other ladies, she, at least, refrained from tears for some time.

The Maltese commander next enquired, if it was in his power to serve them in any thing further? They made him a proper acknowledgment for his kindness, and after a short consultation it was determined to convey the property of Mr. Wilcox and his fellow passengers on board the Maltese ship, the owners to accompany the Maltese to the place of their destination (Cephalonia) where they might land their property and

remain till their own vessel should arrive and be repaired, and in the mean time, to employ every means to effect the liberation of their friend. The commander of the Maltese also promised, that as soon as his ship was at anchor, he would procure all the assistance possible, and return and see this distressed ship safe into the same port, where, he was of opinion, she might be refitted as well as at Messina; and added, that the Streights of Messina (which they must inevitably pass through) were extremely dangerous at that season of the year.

Having unanimously agreed to this proposal, they began to remove their effects, as before concerted, which, as the utmost diligence was employed, was completed in a short time; when taking a short farewell of their worthy captain, they went on board with their generous deliverers, who crowding all the sail the ship would bear, and the wind proving favourable to their wishes, they cast anchor at the south side of the island in fifteen fathom water, and a very commodious house being procured, Mr. Wilcox and his friends went on shore, where, had Mercutio been with them, they would have felt perfectly easy.

There were three English ships lying at anchor there. The Maltese commander went immediately on board, and, after informing the officers of what had happened, solicited their assistance in behalf of the distressed ship, which was readily complied with: Three stout long

boats were immediately fitted out with masts, sails and tow-lines; and thus equipped, proceeded to their assistance; an officer from each ship attended with their respective crews, and all under the direction of the Maltese commander, who acted the part of a pilot on the occasion.

As they used every possible exertion, they hove in sight of their object the second day about noon. They found the crew much fatigued and dispirited; however, they lost no time, but making fast their tow-lines to her head, they rowed incessantly until they brought her into the harbour, and moored her safely along side the Maltese ship, to the no small satisfaction of all parties. Having brought them all safe into port, it appears expedient to enquire into the fate of Mercutio.

The commander of the Galley in which he was carried off, was by birth, a Spaniard, who, having been guilty of some enormities in his own country, which had rendered him obnoxious, fled to Candia, where, after renouncing christianity, he obtained the command of the abovementioned Galley, and by his piracy, had accumulated a vast estate. Mercutio, when he recovered his senses, immediately enquired for Isabella, and was informed by an English slave (who had been captured some time before) that he alone had been taken in the late engagement; adding, that the Renegado was not willing to engage the Maltese, lest fortune might throw him into their hands, and therefore conceived it most advisable to sheer off without his customary plunder.

Mercutio's wound was examined immediately on their arrival at Candia, by a Surgeon, a native of France, and had also renounced, who very dexterously extracted the bullet, which was no easy matter, it being lodged in the upper part of the scapular, where it had lain three days and three nights. He was also very skilful and tender in applying proper dressings; so that in a very short time he recovered the use of his hand and arm. The Surgeon, while he was dressing his shoulder one day, enquired of our hero what countryman he was, with several other questions relating to his past adventures, of which being satisfied, he told him he did not doubt but his ransom could be obtained, if he had friends in England, that would advance a sum of money for that purpose.

Mercutio answered him with reserve, but hinted that he should be glad of an opportunity of writing to his friends, if permission could be obtained. He promised to procure him the necessaries for that purpose, and would also pass his word for its being conveyed to England or elsewhere with safety and dispatch. He thanked him for his civility, and the Frenchman went immediately and brought him pen, ink and paper.

Having had an interview with the Renegado, who informed him he should have his liberty for 5000 dollars, and no less, he sat down, and wrote a pathetic letter to his father, informed him of his situation, and requesting a remittance of the sum. The letter, having first been perused by the Renegado, being dis-

patched, and the surgeon having pronounced him thoroughly recovered, our hero was conducted to the interior part of the island, to assist at a building, which the Renegado had undertaken to erect in the centre of a chrystal lake, about four hundred yards in diameter.

The plan was, to convey large hewn stones on a kind of raft, then to let them down gradually to the bottom so as to form a solid and level foundation, large enough for the intended superstructure. In this manner it was to be raised above the surface of the water, then a causeway to be erected from thence to the side of the lake, to convey timber and other materials to the spot. It was Mercutio's lot to be employed in the quarries, where he was obliged to labour from the dawn of day until the stars were visible at night, in company with ten other Christians, who had some time before been captured by the apostate Spaniard. Among his fellow captives, he observed one young man of an amiable countenance, who seemed to endure his sufferings with the utmost impatience and anxiety.

Our hero observed this young man's uneasiness with much concern, and would frequently reflect so attentively on the sufferings of his fellow slave, that he absolutely forgot his own—This was a happy disposition, what a pity 'tis not more general ! Here all interested views were excluded, and every form set aside ; they were so closely watched, and so continually kept employed, that, as yet, they had not found an opportu-

nity of discoursing on the subject of their woes, or of mingling their griefs. This reflection places, in the most conspicuous point of view, the innate goodness of Mercutio's heart. But to return :—

Mercutio, by frequently meditating on the visible anxiety of this young man, began to grow remarkably pensive ; and he sought an opportunity of speaking privately to him, in order if possible, to remove part of the melancholy which preyed continually on his mind.

He did not wait long. One night, when all the rest, worn down with hunger and fatigue, had forgot their miseries in sleep, the young man, fetching a heavy sigh, uttered the following words in a low tone of voice. “ Oh my God ! How long shall I endure the pain and ignominy to which I am at present condemned ? Not only deprived of my liberty, which, alone, is far dearer to me than life ; but cut off from all communication with those I hold most dear, which, miserable as my situation is, would afford me that consolation I stand so much in need of now—my father has no doubt left Italy, before the arrival of my letter, or I should have heard from him before now—But what ! dare I impiously call in question, the decrees, or repine at the dispensations of Providence ? The immortal Jehovah has promised that he will never forsake such as repose a confidence in his mercy ; then, gracious God ! May I never be tempted, or being tempted, may I never yield to the infernal suggestions of those accursed

infidels who would have me to renounce, as they have done, the Saviour of the world, and embrace the damnable doctrine of Mahomet. No, though they should add to my present misery the most excruciating torments that malice can devise, and cruelty execute, yet, fortified by an affiance in Thee, I shall rise superior to the persecutions of men and devils, and shall be enabled to view the bowl, the dagger and the bowstring with the utmost composure."

He paused. Mercutio had been all attention to the foregoing, and, as he lay close to his side, addressed him in the following manner. "My dear fellow prisoner, it is no small consolation to me to have met, in this miserable situation, a person of your exalted sentiments, for, though we are condemned to a state of wretched bondage, yet that God who has called us into existence, has power to deliver us out of the hands of those enemies to all good. Then let us cherish those sentiments which you have expressed, it will render our chains lighter; our labours will become pleasant to us; and we can eat our coarse and scanty fare, not only with content but thankfulness."

From such reflections as these, they insensibly fell into a discourse, on the different accidents by which they had been reduced to their present unhappy situation. Mercutio at the request of his companion, related (abating some particular circumstances) the whole of his adventures, from his first departure

from England, to that moment. "Pray sir," said the other, "do you remember the name of the old gentleman, who with his family sailed in your company from Leghorn."

"Wilcox, sir," replied our hero. "O Heavens! my father!" exclaimed the youth, with emotion:—This declaration surprized and pleased our hero, and also prompted him to ask several questions concerning his adventures since his departure from Leghorn.

"Sir," said Wilcox, "you have been so obliging as to give me a detail of your adventures, therefore, though my narrative is by no means interesting to any person but myself, nor the incidents of which it is composed, surprizing or diverting, yet, to refuse a request so natural, and at the same time so reasonable, would argue ingratitude as well as ill-breeding.

"It is now two months since my departure from Smyrna, with a very valuable cargo, for Amsterdam; and as wind and weather seemed to favor us, I was in great expectation of making a short, pleasant and profitable voyage—Heaven, however, had otherwise decreed.

"On the fifth day, at sun set, we were attacked by the same Rover by whom you were taken. My ship was deeply laden, and in no condition for an engagement;

consequently, we had no hopes of safety, except it could be accomplished by flight; but this attempt proved abortive. After a chase of five hours the Turks overtook and grappled us. They immediately began to board us, in which they met with little or no opposition; we being as I before observed, by no means able to prevent them, it appeared most prudent, to make a virtue of necessity, and endure patiently what we were unable to remedy.

“The Pirates after taking possession of my ship, obliged me and my crew, together with two young gentlemen from London, lately escaped from the Spaniards, to go on board the Galley. Previous, however, to our leaving, they made free to search and strip us all; in doing which, they treated us with the utmost insult and contempt, in consequence of which several lives were lost. A Turk thrust his hand into Charles Howard's pocket, and at the same moment spit full in his face, Augustus Davenport, standing by, and observing what was done, instantly drew his sword, which they had not taken yet, and with one stroke, felled the infamous scoundrel at his feet.

“A dozen Turks instantly rushed on him, Howard and myself supported him, and a bloody battle ensued. The sailors, with the boatswain at their head, advanced to the attack, armed with handspikes, and such other weapons as they could find. The deck was soon covered with blood, and, in this stage of the battle, I re-

ceived a stroke which deprived me of sense until all was over.

“ When I recovered enough to take notice of the objects which surrounded me, I found my feet fast in the bilboes, and my right hand joined to the left hand of one of my sailors, by a pair of hand-cuffs. It was just clearly day when I came to myself, the most inauspicious day I ever beheld. I found myself exceeding weak and sick ; indeed it was no wonder, for though I was insensible of it, I had bled incessantly, from the time I had received the wound ; and the blood was scarcely stanchèd when I recovered my senses, as I was informed by the poor fellow to whom I was handcuffed. He said the two young gentlemen were (he believed) both mortally wounded ; but they dispatched six Turks before they fell ; at length, wounded, weary, and overpowered by numbers, they were mangled in a most shocking manner, and finally, hand-cuffed together as we were. The boatswain, being singled out by two of the infidels, defended himself with the utmost bravery for some time, at length they closed on him in order to throw him down ; but he being both strong and active, clasped one in each arm, and by main strength, being close to the gunwale, threw himself backwards into the sea, and taking both with him, they all perished together.”

“ Pray, sir,” said Mercutio, with impatience, “ can you give me any particular account of those two young gentlemen you just now mentioned ?”

"Not a very particular one," replied Wilcox, "but I understand they remain in town, under the care of a surgeon, in order to have their wounds, which, though many, are not mortal, healed; for this Spaniard is very avaricious, and notwithstanding he is much enraged at the slaughter made by them among his men, yet wishes to have them healed as soon as possible, as he, supposing them to be persons of distinction, expects a great sum for their ransom; and in this I think he is not mistaken."

"Do you suppose," resumed our hero, "there is any probability of their being sent here, when their wounds are healed?" "I am pretty well assured they will," said he; "this I am informed by a young Christian slave, whom the Renegado keeps to wait on him when on shore; and when he goes out on a cruise, leaves him to assist an old Eunuch, to whom he commits the care of all his treasure."

"This boy comes here two or three times a week, with orders to those Eunuchs who have the care of us, and are all subordinate to the old one in town. You see how difficult it is to hold any conversation even among ourselves, much more to speak to him, as he is under the strongest injunctions to hold no manner of correspondence with any of the other slaves; yet I have found means to converse with him, and find him a smart, intelligent lad, son to a very worthy man who sailed with me in the capacity of chief mate: He has

since obtained the command of a ship, and sailing last year to the Levant, was attacked by this Renegado, but was unable to take him or do him any damage ; his ship being a remarkable swift sailer, escaped the Pirate ; but this boy unfortunately falling overboard, fell into the hands of the infidels in the same manner, only unwounded, as you did."

After a short pause he resumed, " My friend, I am not without hopes that with the assistance of this lad, the Renegado once more at sea, and Howard and Davenport here, we might find means to escape from these devils : I am completely versed in the Arabic language, which would greatly facilitate the enterprize. I speak this in confidence, if you conceive the undertaking to be attended with too much hazard, keep this a profound secret, as a discovery would be fatal to us all.

" My dear sir," replied our hero, " you need be under no apprehension on that score, I approve the plan, and will freely become a sharer in the enterprize. The two young gentlemen, you have mentioned are intimate friends of mine ; and though I already anticipate the pain it will give me and them on meeting each other in such a wretched situation, yet my heart pants for the interview." The night being far spent, and the spirits of those unfortunate youths exhausted, they fell into broken slumbers, until the return of day, and the appearance of their keepers arousing them to a repetition of insult and fatigue.

That day, Mirza, which is the name the Renegado had assumed when he had renounced, visited the quarries, to take a view of his slaves, and to give some orders to the Eunuchs who had the superintendence of the work. He appeared, dressed in a rich Turkish habit, and was attended by the above mentioned boy. He inspected every part of the work minutely, and appeared very well pleased. He staid the greatest part of the day, and when he was going away, told the chief of the Eunuchs, he would send two more slaves the next day, and concluded with peremptory orders to push the work with all possible speed, and to look well to the Christian slaves, lest they should form any cabals or plans to escape. These orders were heard and understood by Wilcox. In the course of the day, Wilcox made several attempts to speak to the boy, but the vigilance of his keepers rendered that impracticable.

Night coming on, a cessation from labor afforded an opportunity of resuming their nocturnal discourse, which was the only thing that enabled them to endure the fatigues of the day with any degree of patience.

They remained silent, until their fellow-sufferers were asleep, when Mercutio addressed his partner in affliction : " Well, fellow-sufferer, we have past another wearisome day, without any prospect of relief." " Ay," said Wilcox, and this day has proved the most mortifying to me of any I have spent in this abominable place : The contemptuous looks and imperious beha-

vior of that piratical villain, cut me to the very soul—I was more than once tempted to dash his brains out with the instrument I was laboring with. What most mortified me, was the impossibility of speaking to the boy; for I want to inspire him with a confidence in me; that he may communicate all the intelligence he can possibly collect, with regard to the motions of the Renegado, without fear.”

Thus they spent good part of the time, which their tyrannical master allotted for the recruiting of their strength, so that they might be able to perform their several tasks on the ensuing day: How far such rest, if rest it may be called, would tend towards their refreshment, the reader may judge, when he is informed, that the place in which they were confined at night, was a strong wooden building, about eighteen feet every way, without any aperture in the sides. The roof was constructed of strong plank double, laid transversely, nailed together, and perfectly flat. In the middle of the roof was a small and strong trap-door, by which those unfortunate slaves were let in and out. A rope-ladder, fastened to the top of the roof, served them to climb up; then being pulled up and let down on the inside, admitted them into their apartment, the ladder being then drawn up, the door securely locked and bolted, and they left to their solitary contemplations. It was a favorable circumstance, however, for those captives, that several carpenters were at work, preparing stuff for the inside of the new buildings; and they were permit-

ted to gather the shavings, of which they made a common bed : On this they stretched their wearied limbs promiscuously, which was accounted a particular indulgence.

Early the next morning, the two additional slaves were conducted to the quarries, under convoy of four Turks, who belonged to the Galley. Immediately on their arrival, they were committed to the charge of the chief Eunuch, and their conductors instantly retired. Mercutio fixed his eyes attentively on the two strangers, and immediately recollected the features of his respected friends. His heart had already embraced them, but prudence forbid any other communication at that time : They did not appear to have any knowledge of him, and he found it very difficult to suppress his emotion on this occasion. That day appeared to Mercutio the longest he had ever seen : Night, however, at length put a period to the laborious employment of the day, and their guards having remanded them to their uncomfortable lodging, secured the door and left them to the most mortifying reflections.

Our hero and Wilcox had, for the convenience of discoursing together, taken their lodging in a corner as far detached from their fellow-captives as possible : To this corner they conducted the strangers.

They remained a long time silent. Mercutio, however, unable to refrain any longer, informed the stran-

gers in a whisper, that he had been told they were from London, that he was also a native of that city, and finally requested to know their names.

The answers he received, completely satisfied him as to the identity of the persons. "You, no doubt," continued he "were acquainted with Mercutio ; can you give any account of him ? I was once very intimate with him, and should be happy to hear of his welfare."

"Mercutio !" exclaimed Charles ; "if the person you mean, be the same with whom I once had the happiness of being acquainted, I am sorry to inform you, that he lost his life at sea in an engagement, at which I was present, and if Providence had not reserved me for more and greater misfortunes, I should have shared the same fate."

Mercutio told him, he was, happily, deceived with regard to the fate of his friend ; for, he assured him, he had been in company with him in Leghorn within the last two months.

"What do you tell me ?" said Charles—"Mercutio living ! Pardon, me, sir, it cannot be possible—I saw him swallowed by the raging ocean, which was then of a crimson hue. No, no, I shall never see him more. Nothing short of a miracle, could have delivered him from the fury of the waves : The bare sight of the horrid conflict—the flaming ships—the maimed victims,

floating on various fragments of the ships, under clouds of burning sulphur, was almost sufficient to extinguish life without any other accident."

"I confess," said Mercutio, "the presumption in favor of your opinion is very strong; but I do aver that Mercutio is still living, for from himself I had the account of his miraculous preservation." He then began and related the whole affair, as it has already been described.

"Thanks to heaven!" exclaimed Charles—"Perhaps I may yet live to see my much loved friend—I hope he is at this moment happy: Well am I convinced, if he was acquainted with my hapless fate, he would leave no means untried, to afford me the earliest relief."

"I am fully sensible," replied our hero, "of the willingness of your friend to serve you, was it in his power; but that, I am sorry to say, is not the case, for Fortune is not yet weary of persecuting Mercutio; but has vigorously pursued him to Candia, where he is in a similar situation to your own. Here, though we are refused light, by which you might procure ocular demonstration of the truth of this, yet you may rest assured, that Mercutio has, with his own mouth, informed you of his providential escape from the dangers of the boisterous ocean, to be again captured by Mahometan Pirates."

The emotions of Augustus and Charles on this explanation, are much easier imagined than described : Each supposed the other long since dead, and consequently, all hope or expectation of meeting this side eternity, were excluded. Their discourse, for some time, was such as might reasonably be expected on so interesting an occasion, and between such sincere friends.

Charles, recounted the principal stages he had passed through since their separation.

“When the ship went down,” said he, “I sunk a great way below the surface, and, indeed did not expect to rise any more, for I found myself drawn violently downwards by a power which I was not able to resist, although I used my endeavour for that purpose. At length I found my efforts, to regain the surface began to succeed, and, after being nearly suffocated, I found my head above-water, just as the Spaniards began to retreat.

“One of the Spanish ships burst into fragments just at that instant, and one of her masts, having been projected to a prodigious height by the explosion, fell very near me, and when it came up, I exerted all my strength to reach it, and fortunately succeeded, when I was at the point of giving up. I threw myself across the mast, fatigued and out of breath, and after recovering a little, perceived two boats tossing about among the fragments of the ship. I called aloud for help,

they heard and came to me, and took me into one of the boats, where I had not been two minutes before our own two ships returning from the chase took us on board. Though the ships were much disabled, we anchored at Portsmouth in sixteen days.

“The ships were refitted with all possible expedition; but the gentleman who commanded the ship in which I returned, being attacked by a bilious fever, a few days after his arrival, died before his ship was ready for sea. The admiral being informed of his death, and at the same time of my being on board, honoured me with the command.

“The first orders I received was to convoy a fleet of transports, laden with troops, artillery, ammunition, small arms, &c. to Gibraltar; and afterwards to cruise in the Streights three or four weeks. We sailed accordingly, and meeting with fair winds and weather, made a short and prosperous voyage.

“While the troops, &c. were landing, I spent great part of my time on shore with my friend Davenport, who commanded a detachment of those troops. One evening, being in company with a number of military officers, I staid pretty late, as Augustus had promised to accompany me on board, where I constantly slept. I suppose it was midnight, when we broke up, and we immediately proceeded to the place where my boat

lay. It was perfectly calm when we embarked ; but before we had got three hundred yards from shore, the wind began to blow from the westward in a tempestuous manner, and a long and heavy swell following, we were many times in danger of oversetting. We made several attempts to reland, but in vain ; the swell drove us from the shore, and we were finally precipitated into the Mediterranean without mast, sail, compass, or one mouthful of food or drink. After tossing about on the convulsed ocean two days and nights, almost famished, and utterly divested of hope, we espied, about the close of day, a Spanish Barca-longa, at the distance of about three leagues. It was impossible to escape them, and indeed if that could have been effected, we had no mind to make the experiment, as death would have been inevitable : We therefore resolved to surrender ourselves voluntarily into their hands, and leave the event to Providence ; we accordingly rowed towards them, and as they steered directly for us we soon met. They threw us a rope as soon as we were along side, and Augustus and I went on board immediately. We were received in a very handsome manner by the commander and officers : Our men were taken on board, and the boat hoisted in. The commander asked me where we came from ; how long we had been at sea, and several other questions of a similar tendency. I informed him of the particulars of our distress with which he appeared affected ; then calling an attendant ordered him to conduct us to a cabin, and

provide something to nourish us. He likewise ordered an inferior officer to see that my men were taken care of, and that food should be given to them, but in small quantities for a day or two.

“ We did not see this worthy commander any more that night, for the servant after having brought us some hot wine and a small quantity of rusk, informed us that was all he was directed to give at that time, and that after we had refreshed ourselves, he would show us a bed, where we might repose our weary limbs.

“ We soon devoured our small repast, and though our appetites seemed to crave a farther supply we found ourselves exceedingly refreshed ; we then went to bed, and slept soundly till morning.

“ They sailed on towards Gibraltar, their design (as we supposed) was to reconnoitre, as they hovered between Centra and Alberan, twenty-four hours, and having satisfied their curiosity, took wing, and in four days anchored in the bay of Valencia.

“ The next day, we were taken on shore in my boat, and left under guard in a house near the water-side till further orders should arrive. We did not remain long in this situation ; Augustus and myself were conducted to a superb building, in the east wing of the city, where the Spanish commander, and several other officers, naval and military, were assembled,

“ We were seated, and interrogated concerning our names, country, the command each of us bore under the crown of England ; the reinforcement we had brought, and the actual strength of the garrison. Having passed this examination we were released with the usual forms. All my endeavours to get my boat’s crew released proved ineffectual, they were committed to close confinement. We had each of us a good sum of money, so that we were in no want of any thing, except liberty (we could not suppose ourselves free) and that we intended to regain as soon as possible.

“ In order to effect this, each of us purchased a Spanish habit, and took lodgings in an obscure part of the city where we could remain incog, till an opportunity should offer us to depart for Gibraltar, or elsewhere. Having deliberately weighed every circumstance, we concluded to travel by land to Barcelona, and, if possible, to sail from thence to Italy.

“ We soon found a vessel bound to Naples, the passage from whence to Venice was but short ; we resolved to travel from thence to Hamburgh, from whence it would be easy to procure passage to England. We did not suppose it safe to travel through France.

“ We set forward, and avoiding all manner of communication with travellers on the rout, arrived in Barcelona in safety, though much fatigued.

“After a few days rest, we made diligent inquiry for a vessel bound to Rome, or any other Italian port; we soon found what we wanted, and arriving at Naples, proposed to pass through Venice, and from thence, as before concerted, to Hamburgh. Although this plan appeared to be well formed, and seemed likely enough to succeed; yet it pleased God to disappoint our expectations; for we had sailed but a few leagues from Salerno, when a most tremendous gale of wind drove us notwithstanding our most vigorous exertions, on the Lipari isles, where we sustained considerable loss and damage: This, however, was but a prelude to greater misfortunes. Our ship's rudder was carried away, and every moveable on board, except our wearing apparel, a small quantity of provision, and an anchor of water, were thrown overboard in order to lighten the vessel. Unable to guide without a rudder, and the gale continuing, we were dashed through the streights of Messina with inconceivable rapidity: Despair was depicted in every countenance, and certain it is, that not one of the company had the most distant expectation of surviving the storm. A new and not less terrifying prospect soon presented itself: The irresistible fury of the current soon disgorged us into the Mediterranean.

“The horror of our situation beggars description—To the complicated distress I have already mentioned, disease attached itself; our little provision being nearly exhausted, particularly water, the sailors, all Italians,

fell sick, so that it was with the utmost difficulty we preserved the vessel from sinking, two days and two nights; and I am very sure we could not have kept her above water three hours longer; but, thanks to Heaven, when we were on the point of giving all up for lost, captain Wilcox was sent to our relief.

“The most exalted benevolence displayed itself in the treatment we received from captain Wilcox, until fortune threw us into the hands of the Pirates, which was on the third day after we forsook the wreck.

“As you have had an opportunity of conversing with the Captain, I presume he has informed you of the particulars of our being captured, and the treatment we have received since. We have made application to the commander at Gibraltar for relief which we are in hopes will arrive here shortly.

“Thus I have given you a succinct account of our adventures, since we parted, and do assure you, that meeting with you, though in this wretched situation, sensibly diminishes the weight of my misery, and has in a great measure obliterated the melancholy reflections which has preyed on my mind, ever since we had the misfortune to fall into the hands of those infidels.”

Mercutio then briefly recited the proposals of captain Wilcox, adding, that he yet entertained hopes of regaining his liberty. They were highly pleased with it, and very readily agreed to become sharers in the enterprize.

Sleep at length arrested their eyelids, and put an end to their consultation for that time. Several days, nay weeks, elapsed but neither news nor relief arrived from Gibraltar, and but one very short interview with the boy could be procured by Wilcox. However in that, short as it was, he was convinced of the lad's integrity, who though young, was the very soul of the plan.

Fortune, at length, vouchsafed to dart her effulgent beams on them. One day as the Eunuchs were regaling themselves, after having issued to the unfortunate slaves, the scanty pittance which was appointed for their daily support, the boy arrived with a message from Mirza to the chief of them, which, when he had communicated, he hastened to the quarry, where the slaves were taking a little nourishment, if such it might be called. He informed Wilcox (a part) in a very few words, that the Renegado had, that very morning, set sail with a design of cruising off Malta, in order to intercept a Maltese ship, which he had certain information was to leave Cephalonia within two, or at the most three days, with a very valuable cargo, which he was determined to possess

himself of, or perish in the attempt. The particular night was appointed for the execution of their plan; the boy was to place himself at a convenient distance, so that if the first part of the plan should succeed, he might be in readiness to conduct them to Mirza's; if not, that he might retreat alone, without danger of discovery or even suspicion.

So far, then, matters were laid in a proper train, and wore a favorable aspect.—The boy departed, unperceived by the Eunuchs; and our captives having in some measure assuaged their hunger, renewed their application to labor: The remainder of that day, their drivers appeared to have relaxed somewhat of their former vigilance and severity—evening approached—hope filled their souls, and every thing seemed to augur success.

We will leave those captives in the quarry, and follow Mirza, who had left Candia several leagues behind, resolutely determined to sacrifice every man on board the ship he was in quest of, to his revenge; which was identically the same ship's crew which had formerly rescued that in which Mercutio left Leghorn.

After cruising several days, Mirza was continually on the watch, perceived the Maltese heave in sight: He was but just visible when he first espied her, consequently, he had time to make the necessary arrange-

ments. He lost no time, but instantly gave orders to prepare for an engagement ; swearing, at the same time, by Mahomet that he would send the damned Maltese to hell, or go there himself, before the setting of the sun.

The Maltese commander, soon recollected his adversary, and made immediate preparation for the ensuing conflict : In the mean time, the distance between them diminished rapidly.

No sooner had they got within hearing, than the Renegado saluted the Maltese, with an order to strike his colours ; in answer to which he received a well pointed broadside, which damaged the Galley very much, both in hull and rigging, but did no other execution. This did but exasperate the Pirate the more, he again repeated his oath, of sacrificing every man on board, and to that end, made a vigorous attempt to board, in order to impress them with terror ; but in this they were deceived ; for the Maltese having brought six guns to bear upon the Galley in an oblique direction, loaded with grape, discharged them so advantageously as to kill five 'Turks, besides Mirza, who, in a violent rage, was giving orders to grapple the ship.

This last discharge put an end to the conflict, the crew on board the Galley, consisting of only five 'Turks and seven Christians, which last were chained to the

ear, they let her drop astern; the Turks finding to their cost, they were over-matched, exerted their utmost speed to escape the Maltese, who being deeply laden and not in a capacity to give them chase, bore away for Malta, and were soon out of sight and hearing of the Pirates.

Three of the Turks remaining on board the Galley were officers, and had followed the fortunes of Mirza from the time of his renunciation; and now each intended, secretly, to seize upon the effects of their late co-partner in guilt, as a matter of right. They were therefore unanimous in fleeing towards Candia, accordingly taking every possible advantage of wind and water, they arrived in their old port on that very evening, which our heroes had appointed to make a vigorous effort to regain their freedom.

Having moored the Galley, one of the three Turks aforementioned, suspecting, perhaps, his own ability to secure to himself the whole of the plunder, and that, if his rivals should unite to oppose him, they might deprive him of any share, and perhaps of life, proposed either a joint partnership or an equal division of the whole. This proposal was rejected with contempt by the other two: Each claimed an exclusive right to the disposal of the property. Some altercation ensuing, a rencontre took place, to which two of the parties attacked the third, who did not flinch a step, but dealt his favors so liberally that

in two minutes he dispatched one of his antagonists, and mortally wounded the other ; who in the same instant split his head to the chin, with his sabre, and both fell together.

We will turn our eyes from this horrid scene, in order to discover the movements of Mercutio and his friends. At the usual hour, the slaves were conducted to their place of confinement by their keepers, who were fix in number : Their company had been that day considerably diminished, a party of nine slaves and five Eunuchs having gone to a mountain about nine miles distant, to prepare timber for sawing, and was not to return for several days. There was but one of the captives left at the quarry, who had been taken before captain Wilcox, he had been sixteen months in captivity, his name was Fitzgerald, a native of Kilkanny.

Our young adventurers, though they intended to admit all their Christian brethren, to participate with them in the success of the intended expedition, yet, they had prudently concealed their intentions from all but the boy. In the course of the last afternoon, however, they concluded it most expedient to feel the pulse of Fitzgerald, and if they found him either timid or averse to the attempt, to let it remain a secret, until the critical moment ; but if, as they expected, his wishes were congenial with their own, to develop the whole plan, and hold themselves in readiness for action.

They found, on examination, that Mr. Fitzgerald had long panted for such an opportunity, and when he began to perceive the drift of their conversation, the ardency of his entreaties for a full explanation of their intentions, and the avidity with which he caught every syllable they pronounced, left them no doubt of the propriety of communicating the whole business without reserve.

Fitzgerald was in raptures, and already anticipated the sweets of that liberty of which he had been so long and painfully deprived.

Having resolved on the time and mode of attack, they anxiously waited the arrival of the moment in which they were determined to free themselves from the power of the infidels or sacrifice their lives in the attempt.

It was dark when they were commanded to ascend the rope ladder; they had each concealed a short wooden truncheon between the canvas frock and the skin; Wilcox advancing to the foot of the ladder, on each side of which stood a Eunuch.

This was the critical moment! Wilcox, at one stroke, felled the one on his right, at the same instant, exclaiming, "God speed us!" which was the signal for the onset—he attacked the other; in a quarter of a minute the six Eunuchs were prostrated. The shock

was so sudden, and the stroke, so well directed, that resistance was impossible. They immediately cut the rope ladder into convenient lengths, and, taking the strands apart, bound them securely two and two together. They then raised them up and compelled them to march to their lodging with threats of immediate death if they presumed to utter a word; then putting them in, they locked the door securely, left them to their private cogitations, and departed in quest of the boy, whom they found waiting, according to appointment.

So far then their success equalled their most sanguine expectations.—There was no time to lose, they therefore pressed forward with all possible speed, to the dwelling house of Mirza.

Having gained admission by means of the boy, they rushed upon the old Eunuch, bound and gagged him, and locked him up in a closet.

The boy then conducted them to an apartment, which it seems, was the grand depot, or magazine, of those Pirates. Here they found all kinds of clothing, fire-arms, &c. together with a strong iron chest full of money; and as every one present had been robbed of more or less by the owner of the chest, they thought it no felony to break open and divide the contents of it among them, which they immediately did, giving the boy an equal dividend.

Having supplied themselves with arms, and money, they valued themselves on the acquisition, and began to think they were in a tolerable posture of defence.

But notwithstanding the promising state of their affairs, they remembered they were yet within the lines of the enemy, consequently in a critical and dangerous predicament; therefore wisely resolved to stay no longer there than was absolutely necessary. As they were leaving this apartment, Captain Wilcox observing a rich Turkish habit, which Mirza usually wore when on shore, took it down and folded it up, with a turban, decorated with gems of great value, saying, "Though I do make free to take these things without leave, I hope the gentleman who claims them, will excuse me, when he reflects, that he has property of mine, in his own hands to a much greater amount: At all events, I will risque his displeasure, as I expect to have particular occasion for such a habit in the course of my peregrination." Their young guide then led them into a sort of ware-house, where hung all kinds of dried provisions and fruits. Among other curiosities, he showed them a pipe of excellent Malaga, with which, notwithstanding the precepts of Mahomet and the injunctions of the Musti, Mirza regaled himself privately. They drank a little of his prohibited beverage, and, every one taking as much of the provisions as he was able to carry, they set out for the water side where they arrived without any opposition or interruption,

Nothing could exceed their astonishment, when, at the distance of about three hundred yards, they perceived the identical Gally in which the Renegado had failed, but a short time before.

This discovery threw them into the utmost consternation. They stopped suddenly, and as their affairs seemed to wear a desperate aspect, consulted for a few minutes on the great hazard they were exposed to in case they should unfortunately be discovered: The result was, to embark at all events, and if discovered and attacked by their enemies never to surrender themselves; but conquer the infidels or perish under the cimeter.

They embarked immediately.

The moon shone in its full splendor, and, in the most profound silence, and with all imaginable speed, they began to unmoor the Galley. They perceived by the light of the moon, several persons go on shore from the other Galley, and shape their course for Mirza's house. The boy said he was certain that something strange had happened on board the Galley, as Mirza never remained on board after the Galley was moored; nor suffered his officers or slaves to go on shore, till she was unloaded, and added, that he was not among them who had just left the Galley.

Their curiosity to know what might have happened was too powerful to be resisted, yet knew not how to

procure any information. Some were of opinion, that their safety depended on putting to sea instantly, but the greater part objected, alledging, that if in moving from the shore, they should be observed by those on board the other Galley, a vigorous pursuit would inevitably ensue, and as the Pirates were more in number, and better prepared for an engagement than they, death and destruction must be the unavoidable consequence.

The boy proposed going on board the other Galley, and see how matters stood, observing, that as he was perfectly acquainted with the whole crew, he could easily invent a story to amaze them and in the mean time, inform himself of all he wanted to know. This proposal, however, was on the point of being rejected for some time. It was urged that perhaps Mirza might, notwithstanding his former custom of going on shore immediately on his arrival, remain on board, if so, and he should discover the boy, he would doubtless question him, and finally extort the whole secret from him; and that, having him in his power, he might dispose his measures so as to defeat their whole plan with greater facility than he possibly could, was he to discover them just as they were leaving the shore.

All these consultations were held and the consequential resolutions taken in a very few minutes.

At length it was agreed to let the boy go, to hold every thing in readiness to start in a moment, and, if

the boy did not returnⁿ in a quarter of an hour, to put to sea and make the best of their way to some part of the main land, where peradventure they might be able to elude the vigilance of their pursuers.

The boy returned, within the time limited, bringing with him all the Christian slaves that were in Mirza's Galley. "Good news! Good news!" exclaimed the boy—"Mirza is dead—The ship he went in pursuit of, was well manned—repulsed them bravely—killed Mirza and four of his Turks: The rest brought off the Galley, glad to escape with their lives."

It is difficult to tell whether their joy or astonishment predominated: Certain it is, the message was the most welcome that had saluted their ears for a long time. They interrogated the slaves who had been released by the boy, and their story exactly corroborated with what they had already heard. These poor fellows proved to be, all but one, Captain Wilcox's sailors; they were overjoyed to find their Captain in the company: They also further informed him, that the Galley was so much damaged in the late engagement, that it would require much time and labour, before she could possibly put to sea again.

Being now assured of the death of Mirza, and of the impossibility of being pursued, if any of his adherents should attempt it, their being no craft to be had within many miles, they resolved to sail instantly. They in-

mediately cast off their moorings and committing themselves to the protection of the Supreme Being, hoisted sail and put to sea. A fine breeze springing up, and the vessel being a tolerable sailer and in good trim, they made a prosperous and very expeditious trip to Antioch.

On their passage, they concluded, that Captain Wilcox, as he spoke the Arabic language fluently, should go first on shore in his Turkish habit, with the boy to attend him, and endeavour to dispose of the Galley. This resolution being taken, he went on shore early on the next morning after their arrival, and acquitted himself so well, that before night he disposed of the vessel to a merchant, for three thousand five hundred crowns.

The next day, the merchant went on board, examined his bargain, seemed very well pleased, and paid the money to Captain Wilcox, who gave him possession of the Galley, rigging, &c.

They made no stay in Antioch but proceeded immediately to Aleppo, from whence a Caravan was to set out in two days for Bagdat.

They remained four days in Bagdat, from whence they proceeded to Ispahan, where they divided the price of the Galley, equally among the whole company.

Here they procured private lodgings, but the impatience of Captain Wilcox to see his father and other friends would not permit him to remain longer than five days in Ispahan. Mr. Fitzgerald determined to accompany the Captain as far as Ardevil on his route to Petersburg, where he had several friends, they therefore took an affectionate farewell of Mercutio and his friends, and proceeded towards Astracan, taking the boy, by his own desire, with them.

Mercutio, Charles and Augustus began, once more, to breathe freely; and though their anxiety to return to their dearest connections and native country, was exceeding great, yet, as they had so long endured the most humiliating and painful slavery, and were now restored to new life, as it were, and liberty, they determined to spend one month in Persia, in order to recruit their wasted strength, and to make some observations on the customs and genius of the natives. In order to this, they procured each a complete Persian habit, and resolved to live as privately as possible.

They had been near three weeks in Ispahan, had visited every place of amusement, and had seen every thing worthy of the attention or observation of the curious, when they were informed that the Sophi, intended to review his cavalry on a beautiful plain at the distance of seven miles from the city.

They resolved to indulge themselves with a sight of the Persian monarch, whom yet they had not seen, and

likewise the evolutions of his cavalry, whose dexterity they had frequently heard applauded.

Horses were procured, and they set out early in the day, in order to have an opportunity of choosing a convenient situation: This done, they dismounted and waited the arrival of the cavalcade.

In a short time, the approach of the Sophi was announced, by a succession of shouts, the echoes of which reverberated from the neighbouring mountains, resembled the sound of distant thunder.

Under a cloud of dust which overspread the whole plain, at length, appeared in the front of a vast body of horse, his majesty, mounted on a beautiful Arabian, and his son Abbass, presumptive heir to the Persian diadem, on his left, a youth of about fifteen.

Our hero and his friends were highly gratified with the performance of the cavalry, for though their manœuvres are quite different from those of the English horse, it must be confessed, the Persians are amazingly expert at throwing the lance, as it is no uncommon thing to see them flick a lance into a mark as small as a shilling, when on full speed, at the distance of thirty yards.

The sun shone clear, and the arms and accoutrements of the men, as well as the furniture of the horses, reflected its rays with increased lustre.

The young prince rode a horse young and skittish, the sudden motion of the cavalry, in drawing their swords in opposition to the rays of the sun, produced an instantaneous stream of light, similar to a flash of lightning, which so affrighted the horse, that he darted away with his utmost speed, towards a small, though deep and rapid stream called Zenderhend; the prince unable to check his career, was, in the greatest apprehension of danger, borne away at an amazing rate.

It happened, fortunately, that Mercutio and his company, being well mounted, took a short cut, in order if possible to intercept the passage of the affrighted beast, to the river. The prince called aloud for help, being then within a few perches of the stream when Charles and Augustus threw themselves between him and it, while Mercutio undauntedly spurring his horse, seized the prince's bridle, gently curbed and turned the foaming courser.

The whole body was in motion, and advancing rapidly to the spot, where Charles and Augustus were assisting the young prince to dismount, who was by that time faint and almost breathless.

They had just placed him under a tuft of trees, when they were surrounded by the whole company. The Sophi dismounted instantly, and, giving his horse to an attendant, flew to his son, and taking his hand, affectionately enquired if he had received any hurt. Being sa-

tified of his son's safety, he turned to Mercutio, and in the Arabic language said, "My dear friends, I
"have not the happiness of an acquaintance with the
"names, persons or quality of the generous preservers
"of my son; but thanks to the immortal Alla, I have
"it in my power to reward their noble actions. You
"will therefore accompany us to our palace, where
"you shall experience a specimen of our sincere grati-
"tude."

They gave their assent by the most profound obeisance. The prince being remounted, they set forward towards the city amidst the repeated acclamations of the surrounding multitude.

The beams of gratitude which darted alternately on Mercutio, Charles and Augustus, from the fine expressive eyes of Abbass, were most flattering: He would not be separated from them; but rode between Charles and Mercutio to the gates of the palace.

The welcome they received from Kerim Khan, the Sophi, was such as would have flattered the greatest potentates; at the same time, it was the spontaneous production of a grateful and benevolent heart. "My
"worthy friends," said he, "I have one request to
"make, and that is, that while you are under our roof,
"you will divest yourselves of every restraint, express
"your sentiments freely, openly and candidly; with-
"out this, conversation loses all its energy, and be-

“comes languid, cold and insipid.” But the uncommon attentions of young Abbass exceeds description; the activity of his new friends; his miraculous preservation, and his own acknowledgments, was the only theme he wished to dwell on; and when his discourse on this subject was interrupted, his eyes tacitly expressed the ardour of his feelings.

The Sophi, at first supposed them Persians; but, perceiving his error, he desired to be informed of their names, country, and professions, whether naval, military or commercial. Mercutio then briefly related their adventures, as they have been in the foregoing pages.

Kerim listened to the tale with astonishment; regretted their losses; sympathized in their misfortunes, and rejoiced in their escape. He expressed, in the most animated terms, his satisfaction in the discovery of their being natives of England. “I have long had the most ardent desire to cultivate an acquaintance with his Brittanic majesty. I am convinced that a commercial correspondence might be carried on very advantageously by the way of Russia; but the Empire is jealous of the power of your countrymen, and is afraid if they once get footing on the Caspian shore, the navigation of that sea will be monopolized by them; and her commercial interests in this part of the world totally extinguished. Was this not the case, I should be happy to open a communication with

“ England which I am satisfied would be to our mutual
“ advantage ; however, it is not impossible that these
“ matters may be brought about in the course of a few
“ years.

He then asked several questions concerning the constitution, laws, &c. of England ; the answers to which, made by Mercutio, were so perspicuous and satisfactory, that Abbass, as well as his father, was both delighted and surpris'd.

They were summoned to dinner, which consisted of the most choice viands, sweet-meats, milk, rice, &c. after which they retired to the magnificent gardens of the palace, which are variously and beautifully disposed, as well as very extensive.

Here the Sophi gave a loose to unrestrained conversation, in the course of which, he requested them to give him a description of the standing forces of Great-Britain, naval and military, together with the general character of the natives.

In compliance with this request, Charles gave him a very particular description of the naval establishment ; the mode of discipline at sea and in action ; the number of ships then in actual service together with the number of guns, weight of metal, and number of men in each.

The military laws, customs and manœuvres were next copiously treated of by Augustus, who, by a diligent application, had acquired the most perfect knowledge of tactics.

Kerim expressed the utmost astonishment at the power of Great-Britain: He was perfectly amazed, that so small a nation should support such a formidable naval force, when the whole Persian empire could not afford twelve ships.

Night approaching, Mercutio intimated to his friends, that it was time for them to withdraw, the Sophi opposed this warmly. "If, (said he) it is convenient and agreeable to you, to make this your place of residence during your stay in Ispahan, it will afford me a superior degree of satisfaction: I have experienced more real pleasure in your company this day, than I ever had before. I beg you will not refuse me; there are a number of subjects on which I wish to discourse with you; many things of which I would gladly be informed, and if I miss this opportunity, it is more than probable, I may never meet such another.

They bowed consent, and thanked him for the honour he intended them.

The Sophi conducted them to a grand saloon, illuminated with waxen tapers, they were seated on the floor which was covered with carpets of the first mag-

nificance. A grand collation being served up, they regaled themselves sumptuously ; in the mean time, they were highly entertained by a concert of vocal and instrumental music, performed entirely by females, from whom they were separated by a curtain of green silk only.

This unexpected entertainment, afforded our European friends the highest satisfaction, which they signified to the Sophi, who obligingly answered, " I wish it was in my power to make every moment of your stay in Persia yield you fresh delight ! But come," added he, addressing Mercutio, " it is yet early, you have not forgotten my request, I am impatient to be particularly informed of the general character of your countrymen, their manners and customs in private life." Our hero complied, and so animated was his description, and so pertinent his remarks, that the Sophi was delighted almost to enthusiasm : He declared, that if they would consent to remain in Persia, he would promote them to posts of the second dignity in the Empire. To this they made no answer, but by an inclination of the head. The proper time for retirement being come, these youths, who, but a few days past, were conducted to a bed of shavings, and locked up in a den, dark and noisome, were now conducted in a respectful manner, to one of the most superb apartments in a palace.

Let no man despond ; for there is no case so desperate, on this side eternity, but a parrallel may readily be found ; but supposing one in which this might be found impossible, still, despondency is unavailing, impious to the last degree, unjustifiable, and unmanly : Many have precipitated themselves into the jaws of death, when five minutes reflection would have prevented the rash deed : In the very point of time, perhaps when their affairs had taken the most prosperous direction. That power in whose hands are the issues of life and death, will not permit a rational being, who confidentially depends on his assistance, to sink under his miseries, however great or numerous : Mercutio in the greatest of his troubles (and they were not trifling) never quitted the grasp he had taken on hope.

The next day they were present at a grand levee of the Persian nobility ; among these, were three governors of provinces, with grand retinues : They here discovered that sycophantic adulation, and abject fawning was not confined to the English court ; much of this kind of artillery was discharged, by these turban'd dependents, not only at the Sophi but at the heir apparent.

This disgusting parade concluded, and the crowd withdrawn, the Sophi with his son and select friends retired to the saloon to dine.

After dinner, “you see my friends,” said the monarch, “the pomp and slavery of a prince. It is my wish and intention to render my subjects, of every description, as happy as their situations and circumstances will possibly admit; I am particularly careful in my choice of governors, and officers of every department; I endeavour by mildness and benevolence to show them the line of conduct I would have them pursue towards the lower orders of my people, and though I endeavour by all means to inspire those about me with frankness and sincerity; yet I always perceive in their behaviour and conversation a constrained imitation of sincerity only; their speeches are all studied, are all calculated to flatter the ear, and mislead the judgment: They do not speak the language of the heart: I perceive and despise their meanness; yet I am condemned to listen to adulation, which my sense can never approve. One principal reason of my anxiety to retain you in Persia is this, I would fain spend my vacant hours in the company of a few select friends, who would unfold the real sentiments of their hearts, on all occasions, without reserve. With such friends, I should enjoy all that satisfaction of which my subjects suppose me fully possessed. Frequent converse with persons of this description would afford a most comfortable relaxation to my mind; would give a relish to those avocations which now appear tedious to me: I should then be indeed as cheerful as I sometimes only appear to be.

“My son Abbass is very desirous to acquire a knowledge of the English language, and considers it as no very difficult task, if you, said he to Mercutio, would undertake to be his preceptor for some time, which, as you speak the Arabic fluently, would to you be no disagreeable employment; for I am sure he esteems you very highly, and will follow your directions implicitly.

“The European mode of military discipline I have often heard of, but ever since I heard its principles so clearly explained by you, have had a desire to introduce it in my army; now you, (turning to Augustus,) being so completely versed in the whole art, together with its fundamental principles, are the only person who could assist me in carrying this into execution.

“If I could prevail on you to remain with me some time longer, suppose two months, I think in that time, my plan will be in a state of tolerable forwardness, and the time so spent will conduce more to my happiness than any period of my past life.”

After the most solicitous enquiry for each others sentiments, by the passage of the eye, Mercutio, having made the necessary discovery, replied, “Best of princes, it is a long time since I parted with my dearest friends and relatives, the greater part of which time I have been persecuted by fortune—driven by reiterated disasters into every quarter of the globe, and am still liable to fall into the hands of some of the pow-

ers actually at war with Great-Britain ; to avoid which was our principal design in passing through the Russian territories, which must greatly retard us in our return, as well as prolong the time of our absence from those whom we love and venerate. The ardency of our wishes to return to our native soil, to embrace those dear relatives, your majesty will readily agree, must be extreme ; notwithstanding the cogency of those reasons for our most prompt exertions to accelerate our return to England, I perceive, by the countenances of my friends, and my own feelings, that you have gained your point." Charles and Augustus confirmed his judgment. Nothing could have exceeded the satisfaction of the Sophi on this occasion. "My dear friends," said he, "my heart distended with gratitude, for past favors, now overflows. To offer, or even to conceive a return equal to your unmerited generosity, infinitely exceeds my power : My utmost endeavours, however, shall not be wanting, and my inability, I trust, will meet an excuse. Abbass shall be your friend : He loves you already with the fondness of a brother ; and if the Persian Empire contains any thing worthy of your acceptance, only point it out, and I will show you how much Kerim esteems you, by the freedom of the grant ; and the pleasure he will take in having it in his power to discharge a part of the obligations your kindness has laid him under." Our hero assured the Sophi, that they considered the honors he had conferred on him and his friends, much more than adequate to any services they had or could render him.

Some dispatches arriving, interrupted their mutual acknowledgments.

Thus our young friends whose affairs, but a very short time past, were most desperate, and presented not even the most faint and distant prospect of alteration or amendment, were in an exalted degree of favour, and closest habits of friendship with a great and amiable prince; and held in the highest degree of esteem by all his nobles. Thus it is that Providence heaps, by sudden and almost imperceptible transitions, unforeseen, unexpected, and undeserved blessings on mankind, even when every ray of hope is extinguished, and after the fell usurper, despair, has established an absolute sway over the empire of the soul: This reflection conveys an instructive admonition to such as are, either by constitution or habit, most liable to flinch from the stroke of adversity, and to bend under the weight of misfortunes which are unavoidable, and which are, more or less, sooner or later, in one shape or another, the inevitable entail of the human family, to place an unbounded affiance in that Omnipotent Being, whose Almighty will directs and governs the great and immutable springs of life and motion; for as no situation, however obscure, is capable of secluding us from observation; no caution on our part, however nice, can evade his penetration, not even for a moment; nor a possibility of any scheme of Providence being counteracted, or rendered abortive by the most suitable contrivances of man; therefore, our interest as well as

duty is to repose an unlimited confidence in him, who never withholds his interposition and favour, on every proper occasion. Despondency argues a degenerate mind. He who doubts, tacitly arraigns the justice and mercy, or wisdom and power of God. But to return :

Our hero entered on his new occupation the very next day, as also did Charles and Augustus. As Charles had but an imperfect knowledge of the military discipline, it was necessary he should become the first of Augustus's pupils, in order to attain such a proficiency as would qualify him to assist his friend. Accordingly, in a very few days they were ready for business. They then formed a small corps, composed of the commanding officers of the several regiments, which, by the Sultan's devise, were to be immediately disciplined. This being accomplished, similar squads were formed of the subalterns, who took so much delight in the manœuvres, and so highly esteemed their teachers, that in a very short space they were fully capable of forming their respective companies, which was immediately undertaken.

The Sophi constantly attended at the performance of their exercises, and expressed his approbation in terms, which at the same time that they indicated the highest satisfaction, afforded the most complete gratification to both tutors and pupils, and encouraged them to prosecute their labours with unremitting diligence and delight : The officers were no less diligent than the So-

phi, which was a source of pleasure to Charles and Augustus.

If Kerim was elated at the vast progress of his officers in the European exercise, the superior satisfaction he enjoyed in the proficiency of his son, in pronouncing English, which by this time he did with a degree of correctness really astonishing, may readily be conceived. The Sophi requested his European friends to discourse with Abbass in no other language thenceforward.

The Persian commanders having new modelled their several regiments, four hours each day was spent in manœuvring the troops, for near two months; this being always performed under the immediate eye of the Sophi, and the most scrupulous superintendence of Charles and Augustus; they went through the various evolutions with all the exactness and dexterity of veterans. In the mean time, Mercutio and his pupil were not idle: Abbass pronounced English with an uncommon degree of accuracy, and expressed the most ardent desire to be farther instructed: Even so far as to read and write it. The Sophi being exceedingly anxious to have the mind of his son stocked with every species of useful knowledge, sent to Casbin, to an English merchant who dwelt there, requesting him to send all the English books he could possibly spare. He sent several, and promised to write to a correspondent in Petersburg, to procure him a collection from London, by which means he would be able to furnish his majesty with what books he wanted.

Mercutio would have been as happy as he had ever been since his departure from England, but reflections on the uncertain fate of Isabella frequently embittered those sweets, which the conversation of his friends and the favour of the Sophi afforded; yet hope, all reviving hope, would come to his aid, would present to the eye of his fond imagination; the strongest probabilities of her being restored to his possession: They were separated, but she was left in the company of friends, who would treat her with tenderness and affection, until his return to England. These thoughts re-animated him, and again he became cheerful.

His pupil was of a sweet disposition, and he viewed him in a two fold light, as a tutor highly esteemed, and as a brother beloved. The Sophi was continually heaping honours on him and his friends, and recommending them to the attention of his noble son, who indeed manifested the most unfeigned regard for them. The Sophi declared, that he considered the frequent intervals in which he was indispensibly separated from them, as so many interruptions to his happiness.

We will now take leave of them and enquire into the fate of old Mr. Wilcox and his company. The reader will readily recollect that we left them at Cephalonia, full of grateful acknowledgements to the Maltese commander, who had so generously rescued them from the hands of the Pirates.

As it required some considerable time to refit the vessel, Mr. Wilcox rented a house ready furnished, for the accommodation of his whole company. The moment the afflicting news of Mercutio's disaster was communicated to Isabella, she shriek'd aloud, and fell into the arms of Terentia insensible, in which situation she remained so long, that almost every hope of her recovery was extinguished. At length, however, with a long and heavy sigh, she once more opened her eyes to the light. After fixing her eyes steadfastly on the company around her, with anxious solicitude for a few moments, and missing her beloved Mercutio, she exclaimed, "Gracious heavens! is he then gone? And are we for ever separated? Oh no! Death has parted us for a short space, but will soon reunite our spirits forever!" Her spirits being exhausted, she dropt from her seat motionless, and, in that situation remained near three hours; however, by the affectionate assiduity of her friends, aided by medical applications, she recovered her senses: Still she remained feeble and languid; a settled melancholy diffused itself over her countenance, she appeared totally indifferent, and, at certain intervals, insensible of what was said or done in her presence.

The ship repaired, and all matters settled, they once more set sail for Amsterdam. The irresistible current setting out of the Straights of Messina, with a sharp North Western breeze, bore them over to the western extremity of the island of Candia: They were within

about two leagues of Cape St. John, when they discovered a sail standing out of Serigo, with an apparent design of boarding. Our unfortunate voyagers, now perceived to their inexpressible grief and consternation, that it was a Turkish Pirate ; and before they had time to adopt any means of escape or defence, they were grappled and boarded by the infidels. The captors conveyed their prize to Gallipoli, where they disposed of the ship, and taking their captives on board the galley, penetrated the Mæmora to Constantinople.

They were conducted through the streets in the habits of slaves, (the Turks having stripped them of every thing valuable) shackled like criminals, to a house appointed for their reception, until the Pirate should otherwise dispose of them. He left them under the care of three Turks, with orders to provide sufficient provision for their sustenance ; and to keep them securely till his return.

He came back in the evening, leading in two beautiful women in rich Persian habits : After seating them on the carpet, he beckoned to Isabella, who followed him with her eyes fixed on the ground, without uttering a syllable. They were met at the door, by a tall man in the habit of a Persian nobleman, to whom Isabella was surrendered, and the Persian delivered to the Renegado a purse, with which he instantly disappeared.

The Persian began to discourse to her in a language which she neither understood or attended to : Equally regardless of him and his discourse, she walked pensively after him to the bank of the Bosphorus. He waved his turban, and in a few minutes a boat came from a vessel which lay at a short distance.

However indifferent the forlorn Isabella had hitherto been with regard to what happened, or whither she was going, it was a difficult task to get her into the boat : She screamed aloud for Eugenio, Terentia, and the rest of her unhappy fellow-captives. Her sensibility being awakened, she exclaimed in the most piteous accents : “ Why, oh ! why am I singled out a victim to the displeasure of heaven ? Oh death ! execute instantly, thy irrevocable commission, and extinguish my miseries and existence with one stroke ! ”

The Persian, taking advantage of her disorder, seized that opportunity of taking her on board the boat, while she rent the air with her lamentations. They were quickly conveyed to Trebifond, a port in the black sea, where they disembarked, and pursued the nearest route to Ispahan, the place of the Persian's residence.

Unpropitious and desperate as her circumstances actually appeared, had any friendly voice whispered in the ear of Isabella, only a bare probability of Mercutio's being in Ispahan, how would her tender bosom have glowed with delight ! How pleasing her dreams ! How

tranquil her slumbers ! But alas ! the hapless fair one must submit to close confinement ; to the base, humiliating, fulsome proposals of an infamous scoundrel ; destitute of every support, under such complicated calamity, but a consciousness of her own inflexible fidelity and virtue—Or had Mercutio entertained the most distant idea of her actual situation, how would his bosom have been convulsed with contending passions ! With what eager haste would he have communicated the distracting, yet pleasing tidings, to his friends, and having engaged their assistance, would he not have exerted speed, almost impossible, until he had regained his treasure ; rescued her from the impious hands of her intended ravisher, or nobly perished in the laudable attempt ?—This indulgence, however, was withheld.

We will now turn to our hero and his companions, who had engrossed all the esteem and confidence of the Sovereign of Persia ; were frequently and attentively consulted on political matters, and were universally caressed by the Persian nobility.

Our three friends returning from an excursion with some of the principal officers of the Sophi's household, and passing through an avenue not far distant from the palace, were alarmed with repeated shrieks of a woman in apparent distress. They drew up as near to a window of the house whence the cries proceeded, as they conveniently could ; and though they were not able to distinguish the particulars, they heard enough

to convince them that some great injury was about to be offered to the person, whose cries had alarmed them, which, it was their duty to prevent if possible. They instantly knocked at the door, and demanded immediate entrance. After repeated applications, they were commanded to begone; this command was accompanied with threats, in case of refusal. The cries were now redoubled, which prompted them to unite their strength, and force open the outer door: This was performed instantaneously, and when they had almost reached the scene of action, they were suddenly intercepted by the master of the house. He placed his back to the chamber door, and demanded their business, at such an unseasonable hour; then, without waiting for a reply, brandishing a poniard, commanded them to depart immediately.

His menaces, however, were thrown away: They insisted on seeing the person whose shrieks and cries had drawn them thither. At that very instant the chamber door flew open, and a lady appeared with her garments much discomposed, her hair dishevelled and eyes suffused in tears. She earnestly requested them to rescue her from destruction; and added, her life was on the point of being sacrificed, for daring to attempt the preservation of her body from pollution, which this vile wretch, said she (pointing to the Persian) was determined on accomplishing if possible. "Your timely interposition, will, I trust," continued she, "be the means of preserving my life, and what is far more dear to me, my honour." Tears stifled her further utterance.

Mercutio advanced, in order to take her hand, when the Persian aimed a stroke at his breast with his poniard ; but our hero, parrying received it in his left arm.

Charles and Augustus instantly seized the Persian, threw him, and wrested the poinard from his hand : The lady sprang into the arms of Augustus, and most pathetically craved his protection. He assured her of the most ample protection and respectful treatment, until redress could be obtained.

Mercutio and Charles had, in the mean time forced the old Persian into the chamber, and locked the door ; they then left him, raving like a frantic bedlamite, and bore off their prize, exulting in the success of their adventure, and fully resolved to see ample justice administered to the afflicted fair one, who accompanied them in silence, except sobs which involuntarily burst forth from her convulsed bosom,

Augustus committed the lady to the care of the keeper of the Harem, for that night, with orders that she might not be interrupted by any person, until he saw her again : The night being far advanced, our hero and his friends retired to rest, intreating the lady to compose herself, assuring her she was in honorable hands, and that they would see her justified in the morning.

The lady, being conducted to a proper apartment, threw herself on a sofa, where she lay till morning,

revolving in her mind the various circumstances of the preceding evening. The treatment she had already experienced from her deliverers, indicated the height of benevolence and honour ; but who, or what manner of men they were, or what could stimulate them to expose themselves to such manifest hazard, in defence of a total stranger, appeared to her an inexplicable riddle : The result of those reflections, at the end of a sleepless night, was a resolution to hold herself prepared for the last distress, and never to survive the loss of honor.

In the morning, our adventurers obtained an early audience, when they informed the Sophi of every part of their evening's adventure, and finally requested him to have the parties face to face.

Kerim accordingly commanded an officer, accompanied by Augustus, to go and bring the offender into his presence forthwith. In the mean time, the chief Eunuch was sent for the lady : He soon returned leading her by the hand. Her eyes were steadfastly fixed on the floor ; and her mind was so deeply engaged in ruminating on her untoward situation, that she took no manner of notice of the Sophi or of any other person present.

The monarch surveyed her with the most acute attention for some minutes, and, judging by her habit that she must be a native of Turkey, he addressed her in the Arabic language :

"Young woman," said he, "we have been informed of the particulars of your case, and are determined to render you impartial justice. Do not suffer fear to oppress, nor grief to disconcert you, you are in the presence of those who will not permit either subject or foreigner to be abused, or insulted with impunity, within the limits of the Persian dominions; but will administer justice to all with an equal hand.

The lady perceived by his discourse that she was in the presence of a monarch, and also a rational being, whose mind appeared fraught with sentiments of humanity and virtue; she was therefore, encouraged to prostrate herself before him, and to implore his protection, which she did in terms so pathetic, as constrained him to rise from his seat, raise her up in the gentlest manner, and assure her, her request should be granted.

He desired her to be composed, and was conducting her to a seat beside his own, when a scene was exhibited which arrested the attention of the whole groupe, and filled them with astonishment!

Mercutio, whose eyes had been rivetted upon her, from the moment she entered, springing from his seat, caught her in his arms, and eagerly exclaimed "Immortal Jehovah! My long lost Isabella!—Rejoice with me, my friends!—Behold the dear partner of my soul!"—She fainted—The Sophi was almost petrified with astonishment—Charles sprang to her assistance—She re-

vived, and in falt'ring accents pronounced: "What means this universal trepidation which has seized my frame?—It cannot be—"Tis all illusion—No, no, my dear, my beloved Mercutio is no more—cruel fate has separated us for ever—No more shall I gaze, with delight unutterable, on his"—Tears arrested the organs of speech—she could no more.

"Be composed my dearest life, said Mercutio—You are not deceived my love,—Mercutio once more clasps his dearest Isabella in his enraptured embrace. Arise my love, here are none but the most gracious, best offriends."

A glow of the highest satisfaction was depicted on every brow; joy sparkled in every eye, and a kind of tumultuous pleasure expanded every bosom present.

The Sophi was the first to congratulate our hero on this happy turn of fortune; and Abbass just now accidentally entering, joined in the general joy, and completed the happy groupe.

Augustus now entering, informed his majesty that the prisoner was without, and, at the same time, delivered to them a poniard of great value, which he had forced from the prisoner in the very moment he had raised it with an intention to give him a mortal stab.

Charles, in a few words, disclosed to Augustus, the particulars of the discovery which had been made

in his absence ; he heartily congratulated his friend on his happiness, and wished him a long continuation of it.

“ Bring the culprit before us,” said Kerim.

He was immediately introduced, and proved to be a person who, by the art of dissimulation, had ingratiated himself with his prince so, that he had conferred some of the greatest dignities in the Empire on him, and, until this period, considered him as one of his most faithful subjects : Thus, as in many other instances, was a humane and benevolent sovereign made dupe to the artifice of a designing, treacherous villain.

It appeared in the course of his examination, that he had deluded the two females, whom he had exchanged for Isabella from the Harem of the Sophi, under the specious pretence of conveying them out of the Persian dominions, and of providing them the means of returning to their friends and country ; his real intention being to detain them privately in his own house ; to make them subservient to his desires, and then to dispose of them to the greatest advantage. The poniard which was presented to the Sophi by his brother, he had also stolen out of the palace about three months before the time we are speaking of. He, knowing the inflexibility of his prince against such atrocious offenders, and conscious guilt overwhelming him with despair, confessed, that if he had succeeded in his design on Isabella, his intention was to have disposed of her in the same manner

in which he had the other two, after keeping her as long as he should judge convenient.

“Ungrateful caitiff!” exclaimed the Sophi, with fire darting from his eyes, “I should as readily have suspected my own son of abusing my confidence as thee, on whom I have heaped favors without number or measure: The finger of justice has at length pointed out the baseness of thy contaminated heart, and the sword which shall punish thee for thy crimes is already unsheathed. Thou hast, (continued he,) forfeited every claim to mercy by thy treachery; but thy ingratitude merits immediate and excruciating torture:” These words were pronounced in such an ireful and emphatic tone of voice and gesture, that the wretched criminal appeared to be more dead than alive, “Take him away,” said Kerim; “to-morrow by the rising of the sun let the keen cimeter sever the traitor’s head from his vile body—Let his houses be razed to the ground, his enclosures burnt to ashes, and every thing that heretofore bore his name, be totally annihilated, and swept from the face of the earth, so that no vestige of such a vile miscreant may remain, to pollute my good subjects.”

While this business was transacting, Mercutio conducted Isabella to another apartment, where they spent a considerable time in the most affectionate enquiries and congratulations; in the renewal of their former protestations of eternal love and fidelity; those endear-

ing expressions to which they had so long been strangers, were now heighten'd into rapture, by the pleasing reflection of their miraculous escape, from those dangers, apparently insurmountable, which threatened their eternal separation. They humbly and fervently admired the wonderful, nay, incomprehensible means employed by the Almighty, in the preservation of unworthy mortals, and returned mutual and sincere thanks, for the much desired, superior blessing, of being once more restored to each other: The situation they were then placed in, leaving but one wish, and that was to be in England.

They were summoned to breakfast, during which the Sophi was lavish of his encomiums on the accomplishments of Isabella, declaring as his opinion, that she surpassed all the ladies he had ever beheld, in a superlative degree.

The crimson glow which overspread the lovely countenance of Isabella, joined to the sweet embarrassment which eclipsed that pensiveness, under which she laboured at her first appearance before the Sophi, seemed to confer graces too exquisite to be possessed by a mortal.

Breakfast passed, our friends jointly and earnestly solicited the Sophi for a mitigation of the punishment of the unhappy victim of his displeasure, on whom he had passed sentence of death.

“ My invaluable, best friends, I am under so many and great obligations to each, and all of you, that I consider it as a duty incumbent on me, to grant you any and every request, consistent with reason, and the regard I have for you, and that is not derogatory to my own dignity and the good of my subjects. On the other hand, give me leave to assure you, that my inclinations are in exact co-incidence with this duty ; and as I abhor every species of ingratitude in others, so I would not be even suspected of it myself.

“ With regard to your present request, it shall be granted—But do not suppose that I will grant him an entire remission.”

“ All we request, is that his life may be spared ; we conceive any greater extent of indulgence might be productive of evil consequences, by affording encouragement to others, to perpetrate similar crimes, under an expectation of shelter (beneath your majesty’s royal clemency) from the just vengeance of the laws of their injured country.”

“ In Mount Taurus are wilds impervious for all but wild beasts of the forest, and those criminals whose multiplied enormities have procured them a habitation among them : Thither I will banish him, to subsist on what he can procure by the gun and ax ; both which, together with a quantity of ammunition he will be supplied with by the officer appointed for that purpose,

and if he is found within the cultivated part of our dominions within the space of twenty years, certain and immediate death shall be the consequence."

Orders were instantly given to convey the prisoner to his place of exile, under a strong guard. When he was informed of the change of his sentence, he stamped, cursed and swore like a raving bedlamite—He cursed the Sophi's mistaken lenity, and swore he would rather die a thousand deaths than be carried into ignominious slavery, and finally threatened to lay violent hands on his keeper, who turning short, made a stroke at him, which deprived him of his right ear: He then ordered his hands to be bound fast behind him, and, a proper guard being appointed, he was sent off on his way to Taurus.

We perceive in the fate of this man a striking instance of the invariable justice of Providence, in the punishment of offenders of this description. Had this unhappy, ungrateful wretch; taken but half the pains, to be what he pretended to be, as he did to appear to be what he was not, he might have terminated his days high in the favor and confidence of his prince, and what is of far more estimation, in a consciousness of having performed his duty in a becoming manner: His last sun, instead of being enveloped in remorse and despair, would have set serenely, and his soul would have taken her flight, on the wings of tranquillity, to realms of bliss.

Two months having elapsed after the restoration of Isabella, Abbass having attained so great a proficiency under our hero's tuition, as to be able to express himself, on any subject, in a very good style of English; he also read and wrote it with a degree of judgment and accuracy, far exceeding every expectation which could have been rationally formed; the select troops completely versed in the use of the musquet and bayonet, and the desire of returning to Europe, pervading the minds of our hero and his friends, they conceived it high time to communicate their wishes to the Sophi, and obtain his leave to depart.

They embraced the earliest opportunity of breaking the matter to Kerim. Mercutio undertook this task, and was seconded by Charles and Augustus. It was not without manifest symptoms of regret, that this amiable monarch gave his assent to the separation. "Heaven knows," said he, "with what reluctance I shall pronounce the last adieu, to persons who have, so extensively contributed to the emolument of my family, my Empire, and to my own private happiness.—When you forsake me, every moment of relaxation from public business will be employed in the contemplation of the many pleasing hours spent in your company and conversation. If riches or honours had charms sufficient to attract your attention—to retain you in Persia, how willingly! How eagerly would I confer them! But alas! as that cannot be; since you so ardently desire to return to your native country and

connexions, which, I must confess, is both natural and laudible, be it our care to see you properly accommodated ; to see you respectfully treated until your departure, and then safely conveyed to the frontiers of Persia. Let me have notice ten days, at least, before you set out ; and in the mean time, let me enjoy as much of your company as possible, consistent with your own convenience.

Business of moment demands my attention : Abbass, stay with our friends—Embrace every opportunity of improving yourself by their precepts and examples—Lose not a moment ; but be not burthensome.” He retired, leaving them full of silent approbation and exalted esteem.

The young prince was no less affected with the news of their intended departure, than was his royal Sire. He lamented the privation of their society, as if it had already taken place, in terms at once expressive of his sincere gratitude and affectionate esteem. He expressed a desire to accompany them to England, and most ardently requested Mercutio to exert his influence with his father, in order to procure his approbation to the measure. He conceived it no difficult matter, and reiterated his request with so much earnestness, that our hero promised to press the matter home at the next interview.

They were sitting, one fine evening, on the top of the royal palace, and while they enhaled the gentle zephyrs, anticipated the pleasure of embracing their friends in England in a short period ; having agreed to give the Sophi the notice he required, the ensuing morning.

Abbafs appeared, and with an embarrassed air, informed them that his royal father, had just received some important dispatches ; and requested their company, if they were disengaged.

They immediately waited on his majesty, and found him in earnest discourse with his first minister, or vizier. He arose, saluted them with his usual cheerfulness, and caused them to be seated. " My most inestimable friends," said he, " I am assured you are at a loss to divine the meaning of this sudden convention ; I will, therefore, in a few words, remove your suspense by informing you that four of our distant provinces, namely, Chofazan, Adirbeitzan, Kilan and Sablestan, are in a state of actual rebellion. I have certain information of this by a private letter from a faithful subject in Herat. He informs me that the governor of Choran, (a Russian) in order to effect a revolution in the Empire, has disseminated the seeds of sedition far and wide, by encouraging a spirit of licentiousness among the lower ranks ; and by bribes, and promises of great rewards in territory, and posts of honor and profit, among the better sort ; he has poisoned the minds of

the greater part of the inhabitants of those provinces. My friend writes further, that he has garrisoned Asterabat, a convenient port on the Caspian sea, in order to keep open a communication with his countrymen, who, no doubt, will assist him in his villanous undertaking: Now, what I have to request of you is only your advice in this emergency.

“ You have had much experience in military affairs, and as I have now a body of infantry fully instructed in the English discipline, I would have your instructions how to employ them to the best advantage. I also want your joint advice as to another matter. The rebel chief is now at the head of seventy thousand mal-contents, advancing rapidly to Candahar, with a design to invest that capital, cause himself to be proclaimed Shah, levy all the force he can there, and advance hither with all speed; for he expects the reduction of this city will, if effected, seat him quietly on the throne of Persia.—Now, whether is it best to raise a powerful army here, and wait his approach; or march directly to Candahar, and give him a repulse, at least, at a distance? Speak your sentiments as usual, with freedom; for let the the final issue be what it may, I am too well convinced of your sincerity to impute the cause of any disaster that may happen, to your advice.” Here he paused for a reply.

Augustus delivered his sentiments in the following terms.

“The many and particular marks of distinction with which my friends and I have been honoured, by the unbounded liberality of your majesty, as well as the freedom of speech and action with which we have been indulged, ever since we were so happy as to find an asylum within the walls of the monarch of Persia, emboldens me to offer my sentiments, on the present occasion, without reserve: Not only so, I will yield all the personal assistance in my power freely. Dispatch a courier, immediately, to the Governor of Candahar, with peremptory orders, to put himself in the best posture of defence possible; to hold himself in readiness to repulse the rebels, and assure him of speedy and sufficient succours under your immediate command. Let Cashin be garrisoned and fortified as a check on Astabat. You have now five thousand troops initiated in the management of the firelock and bayonet; take two thousand of those and a sufficient body of cavalry, and march directly for Candahar. The remaining three thousand I would keep here to fortify this city and put every thing in order to give the insurgents a warm reception, if they should reach so far before they are reduced to obedience: Finally, if you find it impossible to maintain your ground at Candahar, endeavour, by all means to effect an orderly retreat to this capital, before your troops are thrown into disorder; for depend on it, if matters are brought to that crisis, your success will ultimately depend on that manœuvre. Be not too sanguine; if Candahar holds out until your arrival, it will strike the insurgents with terror, to see that you

have yet thousands of faithful subjects, rallying with courage round the royal standard and commanded by their prince in person.

“ This is, in my opinion, the most probable method to ensure success, for the Candahar army, if a retreat is inevitable, will accompany the troops under your command, and, if the retreat is orderly, you will acquire (like a stream running back on itself) additional strength and numbers in every mile of your march ; whereas if your forces are put to precipitate flight, ’twill be exactly the reverse.

“ If these measures are pursued, I have not the least doubt of your majesty’s arms being crowned with glory, the traitor punished, and your deluded subjects returning to their former allegiance.” “ My invaluable friend,” said Kerim, embracing him, “ your words re-animate my soul ! I am determined to pursue your advice.—How happy you would make me if you would accept the command of those three thousand infantry who are to remain in Ispahan : Your presence would inspire those officers and men (who have been trained to your hand, by your own precepts and under your immediate inspection) with redoubled vigour ; and almost ensure success. Under your auspices they will learn to encounter and defeat the rebellious banditti, who are now meditating a blow, which they intend, shall overturn all law and order, and introduce anarchy and confusion ; rapine, plunder and bloodshed.”

“That shall never be, while I am able to yield a sword. No, Kerim, I repeat it again, I will not sheathe my sword until your rebellious subjects are reduced to submission, or Augustus Davenport is lying, undistinguishable, among a pile of slain.” “And a sword you shall have,” said the monarch, in raptures, “worthy of your noble spirit, and the cause you have so generously espoused.” He immediately took off his own cimeter, and presented it to Augustus, saying, “Accept this, it has passed from father to son, through four generations, and has never been taken by an enemy, nor sullied by the hand of a coward or traitor; and my reason for transferring it to you, is, a confidence of its being never employed in a dishonorable cause.”

He then earnestly solicited the assistance of Charles and Mercutio, and offered them commissions in the first grade; but they refused, and gave for reason, that in the very critical state of his majesty's affairs, their promotion over the heads of numbers of brave and worthy Persians might be productive of jealousy and disgust; particularly in weak and prejudiced minds; but cheerfully offered to serve under Augustus, and to exert all their powers in bringing about a happy reconciliation.

The Sophi was highly satisfied with their friendly offers, and on reflection, could not but approve their resolutions, requested them all to take such measures for the accomplishment of the great object in view as they should judge requisite.

These preliminaries being settled, Kerim issued the necessary instructions to those Persian officers who were to remain in Ispahan, in order to co-operate with Augustus, and his friends; then, taking an affectionate leave of them all, set out at the head of his army for Candahar, amidst the tears, prayers and acclamations of his people, of every description.—Augustus immediately convened the principal officers, in order to consult on the steps, necessary to be first taken, to render the city tenable, against any force that might be brought against it. The result of this conference was, that Augustus should take on him the chief command of both infantry and cavalry (the latter he peremptorily refused, but was obliged to appoint the commander; he pitched on a noble and brave officer, nephew to the Sophi, named Azoumkar.) Mercutio and Charles as lieutenant generals.

Augustus immediately divided his troops into three bodies of a thousand each; Augustus commanded one, Mercutio and Charles the other two. The two latter to form ambuscades on the wings of the city at the distance of one hundred fathoms in advance, from the two extreme angles of the city walls, in front, and six hundred fathoms from each other, exactly opposite. Intrenchments were immediately thrown up to cover the ambuscades, who were not to discover themselves until a concerted signal was given from the top of the city walls; then to flank, and, if possible, surround the enemy, who being galled in front from the walls, would give ground, which would throw the rear into confu-

tion, and while turning to fly, and finding an enemy behind, would become desperate, and the engagement in consequence become general and decisive.

A body of five thousand choice cavalry was dispatched to Casbin, and as many more to secure a communication between that city and the capital: Small parties of horse were kept in continual motion, and in every possible direction, particularly towards Candahar.

Thus, having taken every precaution which appeared necessary, and laid every thing in as proper a train as time and circumstances would admit, they anxiously waited the event.

On the seventh day after the royal army began its march towards Candahar, two spies were brought in by a scouting party, who, after informing Augustus that the rebels to the number of one hundred thousand, had closely invested Candahar, and that they were sure that city must fall into their hands, were hanged without the walls.

In the evening of the next day, arrived thirty thousand horse from the provinces of Kirman and Chufistan: These troops were refreshed, and being divided, were encamped on the outward wings of the ambuscades, in order to sustain the first onset of the insurgents; then to make a show of retreating to the city gates, but when within one hundred fathoms, to divide in good order,

and retire to the right and left, through the two chasms between the walls and the ambuscades.

At this critical moment the gates were to be thrown open, and Augustus with his corps to march out, form in a solid column, advance within a few paces, fire right in the face of the enemy, and rush on them with fixed bayonets: In this stage of the conflict, the signal for the ambuscades to appear was to be hoisted.

The next day, a courier arrived, with dispatches from Kerim, signifying that the insurgents had taken possession of Candahar before he could possibly reach it; that he had sustained considerable loss in an engagement with a large detachment of the rebel army, and was then retreating in good order, and expected to be at the gates of Ispahan in a few days; adding, that the rebel chief had drawn out his whole force, to pursue him, said to consist of one hundred and thirty thousand effective men; and that though Candahar had surrendered to superior numbers, they only waited a favorable opportunity to flock to the standard of their lawful sovereign.

Broken parties of cavalry were continually flocking in, after this intelligence, some bringing a few prisoners, and some accompanied by deserters; but all concurred in the account of the total defeat of the royal army and of the taking of the Sophi, who was sent a pri-

soner to Candahar, and that the enemy pursued the shattered remains of his army with all possible speed.

It seems the Sophi's army having been pressed hard for four days and nights, continually galled in flank and harrassed in rear, was constrained to halt, (not encamp) for a few hours repose: Hunger and fatigue, the harbingers of discontent and lowness of spirits, prevented them from taking the necessary precautions for their safety: The consequence was, they were surrounded in the night, and almost all cut off, and Kerim, with several of his officers made prisoners.

A council was called, in consequence of this information, consisting of all the principal officers, civil as well as military, wherein it was resolved not to make any alteration in the present disposition of the troops; to dispatch expresses to each of the provinces, yet in Kerim's interest, requesting speedy succours; at the same time, keeping the account last received a profound secret. It was also further agreed to admit and keep all the scattered forces that might come in before the arrival of the enemy, within the walls, to be refreshed and formed into a corps-de-reserve, to act as opportunity or necessity might require; and, finally, never to surrender, but preserve the capital, or fall with their swords in their hands.

These preliminaries being adjusted, and the different dispatches gone, the commanders joined their respective

corps, in order to wait the approach of the rebels, who, by undoubted information, were actually within forty miles, and advancing rapidly.

At the close of that day, about four hundred of the Sophi's infantry with two thousand horse arrived, who reported that the insurgents, would certainly attack them by day-light next morning ; as their motion had more the appearance of a retreat than an advance. These troops were received into the city for the purpose beforementioned, and two thousand cavalry sent as an advance guard, about seven miles from the city. In the course of that night thirteen thousand cavalry, and two thousand archers arrived from Sablestan: The archers were posted on the walls, and the cavalry took their stand in a wood, within one mile of the city, eastward, in a most advantageous situation; this body of horse, had positive orders not to appear until they saw the insurgents nearly encircled; then to divide into parties of one hundred men each, advance and dispose themselves in such a manner, that if any part of the enemy's forces should make or attempt a desperate retreat, there should not be left to them even a possibility of an escape.

The sun, just above the horizon, discovered the advanced guard returning with some precipitation, yet in good order; and in a short time, the insurgents, in great force, under a thick cloud of dust, seemed to overspread the whole plain.

A skirmish ensued between the Sophi's cavalry, posted on the wings, and the advance of the rebel army, in which there were but five killed or wounded. The main body of the insurgents now coming up, confident of success from the superiority of their numbers; the royal cavalry, as preconcerted, retreated towards the city, pursued briskly by the rebels, who concluded all was their own; but the Sophi's horse retreating to the right and left, they advanced within sixty fathoms, and, by a flag, demanded an immediate surrender, on pain of indiscriminate carnage. This was peremptorily refused, in consequence of which, the rebel chief ordered to advance to the very gates.

When they were within musquet shot, the gates flew open, Augustus with his infantry sallied forth, and instantly formed in a solid column. The appearance of this column disconcerted them for a moment; but, confiding in the superiority of their numbers, they advanced rapidly, thinking to trample them to pieces, at the same time they uttered a shout which rent the air.

It is impossible to describe the consternation of the insurgents, when their whole front fell at the first fire of the column.—Barbarossa, the rebel chief, notwithstanding this disaster, led on his men a second time to the charge: Now the archers, from the walls discharged a cloud of arrows full in their faces, under cover of which the infantry advanced with secured bayonets, which threw them into inconceivable confusion.

The signal for the ambuscades being displayed in this moment of dread and surprize, the rebels were immediately surrounded, and assaulted on all sides, they fell like leaves in autumn, to attempt a retreat or rally, being equally vain, their chief hastened to the rear, to encourage his unhappy adherents by his presence; he was, however, intercepted in his way by Mercutio, who, dexterously shunning a lance aimed at him by Barbarossa, plunged his sword to the hilt in his left side, and he fell, with his horse, which that instant received a bullet in the head.

The wretched rebels seeing themselves environed on every side, and their leader slain, grew desperate, and for some time fought like so many furies; but in vain did they attempt to penetrate the columns of infantry; they fell like grass before the scythe; the arrows of the archers, and the pointed bayonets bid defiance to their numerous squadrons.

At length, seeing nothing but death before and danger behind, they threw down their arms and sued for quarter: This was granted, and an immediate stop put to the carnage, which was dreadful: The field was in many places, not only strewed with dead and wounded, but man and horse, some dead, some dying, some slightly wounded, swords and broken lances were thrown, as it were, promiscuously together, in heaps, to the terror and astonishment of the survivors.

After securing the prisoners, &c. they found their loss in killed and wounded amounted to something more than four hundred foot, and two thousand horse, including officers, several of whom were of the first rank. Fifteen thousand of the insurgents lay dead on the field; the wounded amounted to a still greater number, the greater part of whom died of their wounds, whether for want of skill or diligence is not known: The weather being extremely sultry, perhaps contributed, in a great measure, to gangrene their wounds, and thereby retard, at least, if not entirely prevent the cure.

It was next resolved in a council of war, that Augustus should remain at Ispahan with one thousand infantry and twelve thousand horse; while Mercutio and Charles should march the remainder of the troops, horse and foot to Candahar, in order to release the Sophi, and reduce the remainder of the mal-contents to obedience.

The troops destined for Candahar, encamped without the late field of battle, in order to refresh; while those who were to remain were employed in burying the dead, and in removing the wounded to places appointed for their reception, without the walls.

In two days, the troops being thoroughly refreshed and fit for action, the Candahar detachment marched

under the auspices of Mercutio, Charles and several Persian commanders of great bravery.

The infantry, in two columns, were led by Mercutio and Charles, the archers on the wings: Six thousand cavalry formed the advance, four thousand on each flank, seven thousand more closed the rear, and five hundred were formed into ten scouting parties, fifty men in each, to scour the country.

They arrived before Candahar in the night; and seizing the out guards, suddenly and without noise, secured them, and rushed into the city pell-mell, before the inhabitants or troops of the garrison were apprized of their situation.

The streets were instantly lined with armed men, the keys of the gates were secured, a strong guard environed the Governor's palace and treasury, and the Sophi's guards were placed as centinels in every avenue.

A message was immediately dispatched to the Governor, informing him of the change of affairs, accompanied with a demand of the person of the Sophi immediately; to which was added, a threat to put all to the sword, without respect to age, sex or denomination, in case of any hesitation or refusal.

The messenger returned in a very short time, with an invitation to the commander in chief, from the Sophi, requesting an interview at the Governor's palace.

Now there being no such commander, Mercutio and Charles insisted strongly, at first, on Kerim's nephew to appear in that character, as he was commander in chief of the cavalry; but this he refused, so that at length, by the joint solicitations of all the rest of the officers, Mercutio was prevailed on to go. He was met at the gate of the palace by Kerim the Governor and most of the principal men of the province.

"Welcome, thrice welcome," said Kerim, to our hero, "my dear friend! My brother! Preserver of my life! Thanks to the eternal Alla for the preservation of my friend. Where are our other friends? Is my son safe?" Our hero, in as concise a manner as the nature of the subject would admit, informed him of the latest occurrences at Ispahan; the real state of his affairs in that quarter, and of the welfare of his son and other friends.

Kerim expressed his satisfaction in the most animated language, while the strong expression of his countenance displayed the grateful sensations of his heart.

The rest of the principal officers were next sent for, who soon appeared before their beloved sovereign, and manifested the most unfeigned satisfaction on his restora-

tion. They, each in his turn congratulated him on the success of his arms. The Persian commanders attributed the late victory solely to the valour and discipline of the legion of infantry; and assured his majesty that the royal cavalry must inevitably have been routed, had it not been for the judicious dispositions, planned by the superior skill of Augustus and his colleagues.

“ My worthy friends,” said Kerim, “ Ever since the event which gave birth to our friendship I have sensibly felt the weight of the obligations under which your generosity has laid me; but now I despair of ever having it in my power to make any compensation that will bear the smallest proportion to the accumulated load: The life and education of my son—My own life, my honour, and my Empire; all these do I owe to your wisdom and valour—But why should I recount particulars? Lives there a loyal subject of mine who is not indebted to you for the freedom he this day enjoys? But no more of this—I know your generous disinterested dispositions, and will therefore suppress those effusions, and wave the conversation.

“ Let us set our affairs in order here, and return to Ispahan. I am anxious to embrace our dear Augustus—To fold my dear Abbass to this breast, in all the ecstasy of parental affection. Come my friends, I am constrained by the urgency of my affairs, to solicit your advice once more,

The revolted provinces are at present in a state of the utmost confusion ; order must be re-established before we can pretend to sit down satisfied. Chorazan is at present without a Governor, consequently discord, cruelty, rapine and oppression reign uncontrouled, the reduction of this province to order, demands our first and principal attention.

“ Having given me such powerful assistance you will not, I trust, desert me until, we have secured the fruit of our labours, beyond a possibility of its being wrested from our hands ; to restore peace and its attendant blessings to my subjects, and to prevent the further effusion of blood, is our ultimate wish : In order to facilitate this so desirable an undertaking, I request your advice ; as I freely confess my self embarrassed, and much at a loss where to begin.”

After a long consultation, it was finally determined that Azounkar, should march the cavalry under his command, with the addition of one thousand infantry, invested with all the powers necessary to take possession of the governmental reins, in the room and stead of the traitor Barbarossa, and to proclaim through that province free pardon to all such as had been active in the late rebellion, on condition of a peaceable return to their respective abodes by a certain day, and future good behaviour ; otherwise to be put to death as soon as found, without ceremony.

Order being re-established in Candahar, Azounkar prepared for his march, and after taking an affectionate leave of his uncle and his brother officers, who expressed much regret at parting with him, he being no less an amiable companion than a valiant commander, he marched under a discharge of all the small arms.

The next day Kerim, with his friends, Mercutio and Charles, set out for the capital of the Persian Empire. They were met within two leagues of the walls, by the loyal inhabitants of that city, with Augustus and Abbass at their head. Nothing could exceed the joy of Abbass, on seeing and embracing his royal father in peace and safety. The loyal citizens, after having congratulated their sovereign on his success, accompanied him to the palace; then dispersed with every mark of satisfaction, to their respective places of abode.

The troops were encamped without the walls, and four days were spent in public rejoicing: The troops were feasted sumptuously and Kerim distributed, with his own hands, an equal donation to each soldier.

The day being arrived for the departure of the troops drawn from the distant provinces, they marched, full of grateful acknowledgements of the liberality of their sovereign, whose approbation crowned their victory with happiness, and added fresh verdure to their laurels.

Abbass, who had not left Augustus from the time his father marched from Candahar, until his return,

but, having attended to every plan laid down, and every order given by him, with the utmost avidity, it is not to be wondered at, if he made a very great improvement in the military art: This was the case, in consequence of which, Kerim was transported almost to enthusiasm. He could not forbear expressing his gratitude in words as well as actions. He considered his three friends as the saviours of his life and restorers of his Empire; he would have loaded them with the most precious treasures of the East: In short, he wished to spend his days with them, and to that end would have sacrificed the half of his dominions to have retained them in Persia.

But the period was fast advancing which was to separate those sincere friends; Mercutio and Isabella both grew impatient, and panted for the attainment of that goal which they had figured to themselves, as the ultimate point of their pursuit.

After several private consultations held on the subject of their intended route, our hero and his friends determined on passing through the Russian territories as the safest, and, perhaps, most expeditious.

When Kerim was apprized of their design of setting off in the course of ten days at farthest, he changed colour, and pensively said: "So then we must part at last! Has heaven raised me to this exalted pinnacle of happiness, with no other design than to teach me

“ submission, by plunging me suddenly into impenetrable solitude? Oh that I could devise means to render any part of the Empire of Persia sufficiently agreeable to them, to become their permanent residence! Then I might be said to be truly happy—To enjoy the sweets of unadulterated friendship.”

Then, as if suddenly recollecting himself: “ But why this ungenerous wish, this selfish desire? What strange unaccountable beings does this self-love make of us! The supposed object of our love we rule with the most tyrannical sway; and at the very moment we profess the most ardent passion for, we wish to prevent the lawful pursuits and even to shackle the very ideas of that object. Shall self-love dissolve the ties of sacred friendship? by no means. Mercutio has taught me to meet misfortunes with becoming fortitude; and disappointments with reverential submission; then I will endeavour to bid them adieu with cheerfulness. Why should they forego their own pleasure to promote mine? Away with such ungenerous sentiments! Am not I indebted to them for all my present possessions? Have they not freely hazarded their lives in my defence!”

After a short pause: “ A pang, however, in despite of reason and rectitude, will intrude in the parting moment: I already anticipate it, but must yield.

“ Let them know,” said he to Abbass, to whom the foregoing was addressed, “ that I assent cheerfully,

that I desire our correspondence may be as heretofore, unrestrained, and that during the short, very short remaining interval, the circumstance of their departure be not so much as mentioned until the evening preceding: Disagreeable tidings are ever premature.—Let us spend this evening in our garden of Tzarbach”*

The evening was spent, as might have been expected, in that kind of rational, substantial pleasure, which nought but unaffected sincerity can convey, and real friendship experience. Abbass, Isabella and Mercutio retired sometime before the rest of the company, who remained in Tzarbach till very late. They proceeded slowly to the palace by the light of the moon. The So-

* This is one of the most beautiful gardens in the Persian Empire, and perhaps in the whole world. It is one league and a half square, contrived in such a manner, that the small river Senderuth, divides it into four exact squares, or quarters; each of which is under the highest state of cultivation, managed by no less than twenty-five gardeners of exquisite taste and skill, to each square. In the centre of the whole, is a basin of white marble; from the centre of which, a large column of water is projected to the height of forty feet. At the corner of each square (next the fountain) stands a most superb pavillion; the apartments, decorated with curious carved work, richly gilt and furnished. Every avenue in this spacious garden is accommodated with a lesser basin of marble, which is exceedingly refreshing; and the odoriferous plants with which the walks are lined, diffuse a fragrance over the whole, which is absolutely indescribable, and the medicinal plants and herbs every where dispersed, baffle both description and calculation.

phi leading the way, conducted them through a long avenue, which was terminated by a flight of marble steps, which led to the Harem. Kerim determined to surprise Charles and Augustus, with a sight both novel and unexpected ; accordingly, in consequence of a preconcerted signal, given by the Sophi, (a stamp with his foot) the folding doors flew open, and discovered thirty and seven females of different nations, religions, sizes, features and complexions, arrayed in all the pomp of magnificent prostitution.

The apartment was illuminated so as to form an artificial day ; but not a motion was made, nor a word spoke, until a nod from Kerim gave birth to a most delightful vocal concert. It was those females who had so frequently contributed to their satisfaction before, though unseen.

Many a side long glance was stolen by some of those hapless females, at their new visitors ; who, on the other hand, found employment for both eyes and ears : They had now an opportunity which they had never met, nor in all human probability ever were likely to meet again, that of observing the gestures and emotions of this collection of females, some of whom were retained by compulsion, some were perfectly pleased with their situation ; while others appeared overwhelmed with a kind of stupor, and totally insensible of the wretchedness of their condition.

There were to be found among them, the prude, the coquette; some who were perfectly adepts in the art of pleasing (a very necessary ingredient in the composition of a woman) and all, except two, in that of dissimulation: These two, very soon fixed the attention of Charles and Augustus; who each, unknown to the other, resolved if possible, to inform themselves of their former circumstances and situations, as well as the vicissitudes which had reduced them to the present.

The concert ended, they took leave of the Sophi and retired to rest.

When they had reached their apartment, said Charles, "I do not wonder that Kerim complains of the want of sincerity among his courtiers, and others who surround his person, when I reflect on the abject situation of all his subjects. They are slaves in effect; for was the throne of Persia occupied by a monarch of vicious principles (which Kerim is not) they would be completely wretched. Yet they live happy, and I may add free, merely owing to the natural goodness of his heart. He has beauties here under his roof, who no doubt possess every qualification necessary to render him happy, if he could but be convinced of the propriety of being attached to one alone: But alas! Sensual gratification, and variety, comprehend the sum of his enjoyment in that quarter.

I perceived, this evening, in the countenances of some of those ill-fated creatures, a mixture of reluctance and remorse in their apparent endeavours to please the Sophi and us. Did you not observe the two who sat opposite to us, and under the mark of serenity, betrayed symptoms of latent grief (if I mistake not) and when observed, were certainly much embarrassed?" "I did," replied Augustus, "and though arbitrary power, under whatever form, was ever my bane, my aversion to it, is this evening increased in a ten fold proportion. There appeared, to me, something in the air of the two you mention, superior to the rest, and deserving of a better fate; and I am anxious, I know not why, to learn something of their history. I am inclined to think they have, like ourselves, been unfortunate, and brought here by force, and having no friend to assist or ransom them, are compelled to linger out the residue of their days in silent misery, divested of every comfort in this life, except a participation of each others woes in private."

"You have exactly expressed my sentiments: I am resolved to consult Mercutio to-morrow, on the means most proper to be employed, in order to obtain the desired information."

The next day they acquainted Mercutio with the preceding night's adventure, and their remarks thereon, which very much excited his curiosity, and he regretted his not being present.

They agreed to use their mutual endeavours to convince the Sophi of the absurdity of expecting, and the impossibility of finding that pleasure (which is the ultimate end of every rational connexion between the sexes) in an alternate cohabitation with a large plurality of women, such as have been already described; and to point out the palpable advantages, as well as pleasures, that would necessarily result from his making choice of one female, with whom he might share his bed and throne, his joys and cares; and thus to eradicate, if possible, those mistaken ideas, which national prejudice and the force of education, had implanted in his breast; and which, as a false mirror, represented every object in a wrong point of view, and consequently mislead his judgment.

This day, a very singular scene presented itself, which had a most powerful tendency to promote their intended conversion of the Sophi, in awakening the feelings of Kerim; in opening his heart to the dictates of justice and in interesting his affections in the cause of oppressed innocence:—An ancient couple, natives of the province of Chorazan, appeared at the gate of the palace, where, meeting Mercutio, they applied to him to procure them admission into the presence of the Sophi.

He immediately acquainted his majesty with the request of the applicants, who desiring to see them, our hero conducted them in,

The venerable pair immediately prostrated themselves before Kerim, and burst into tears. The Sophi ordered them to rise and inform him of the cause of their emotion. They obeyed, and the man, after a short pause, addressed the monarch in the following terms :

“ Most gracious Kerim ! You now behold before you a man who has wasted the prime of his youth, and strength of his manhood, in defence and support of the royal throne of Persia. The sincerity of my attachment to the interest of your royal father, is not altogether unknown to you, oh Kerim !

“ When worn down with age, and unable to render any further service to my prince and country in the field, I retired to the province of my nativity, in order to spend the residue of my days on my own paternal estate.—I drank large draughts of happiness in the endearing company and conversation of my dear Zobeide, and one dear child—a daughter.”—Tears, in rapid succession, descended down his venerable cheeks—he recovered—“ Gracious Prince !” he exclaimed, “ pardon the weakness of a poor old man, an unfortunate father !

“ When the rebel Barbarossa, caused himself to be proclaimed Shah of Persia, I abhorring such rebellious proceedings, refused my assent and assistance at his mock inauguration ; which has brought down his ven-

geance on my devoted head, and has completely desolated my late small but happy family.

“ In order to prevent some of the intended effects of this most unnatural rebellion, I immediately wrote to thee, Oh Kerim, a letter containing a minute description of the face of affairs in Chorazan, that you might have it in your power to avoid the impending storm.”

“ Gracious Alla ! exclaimed the Sophi—“ art thou Mahumed ?” “ The very same,” replied the old man. Kerim embraced him with ardor. “ Welcome, renowned Mahumed art thou to me—But I interrupt thee, proceed.”

“ A traitor from your royal court, an emissary from Barbarossa, who was here when the letter arrived, and contrived to inform himself of the general contents, pursued my servant, and seizing him suddenly, bound him on a camel, and straightway conveyed him to the rebel chief, who tortured him in the most cruel manner, in order to extort a discovery of the person who had wrote the letter ; but without effect : The faithful creature, chose rather to expire under the most excruciating torments (which he finally did) than betray a master who had placed a confidence in him, and whom he loved as a father.

“The well known attachment I had ever manifested to the royal house of Shah Kerim, was no secret to Barbarossa. He fixed his suspicion on me, and determined to ruin me at all events.

“Aware of my being universally known and respected, by all the inhabitants of Herat; he coward-like resolved to prosecute his revenge privately.

“One evening, returning from the Mosque to my house, I received a stroke on the temple which laid me senseless on the ground.

“How long I remained in this situation, or how I was treated until I recovered my senses, I know not. I found myself immured in a humid, dark and noisome dungeon. I received as much rice and water as supported life, but heard not the human voice; nor saw the light of day, until the arrival of Azounkar: But neither the want of light, food or liberty were held in any competition by me, with the dreadful mortification I endured in being deprived of the consoling company of my dear Zobeide, and that of my enchanting Zayde, the only pledge of our reciprocal affection. All this, however, was felicity, compared with the agony of mind which I have constantly endured ever since I was liberated.

“In the same hour that I was seized, a posse of rebels surrounded my house, and, after stopping the

mouth of my dear Zobeide, stript it of every thing valuable, and, oh torture! my lovely Zayde! ever since my liberation I have been seeking her, and but two days ago was informed, that when the rebels were overthrown, she was taken by Solim Abbasi (the atrocious villain who took my servant, and was the cause of all the misery I ever experienced) to the distant province of Adrbeitzan, where he has a number of friends.

“ I know her soul is rent with anguish, if even nothing worse than our separation has taken place, and the distance is so great, that, fatigued as we are, it is next to impossible for us to perform the journey, and if we even could, it is more than probable the villain would find means to elude our vigilance, or, if found, would perhaps but insult our misery.

“ This O Kerim! is the sum of my distress, and, confiding in your well known benevolence and justice, I have presumed to lay my grievances before you, in full assurance of obtaining redress.”

“ Yes,” said the monarch, “ and ample redress you shall have.” He then gave orders to a vigilant officer, to march with a company of horse, immediately, and to bring Selim Abbasi, with all his household, to Isfahan, with all possible speed.

“ Mahumed,” said he, “ you will remain in our palace until they return, you shall be accommodated

with every thing necessary while you stay here, and when you choose to depart, I will reward your loyalty, by rendering you as affluent as you were before this misfortune happened ; and if you have a mind to spend the remainder of your days in Isfahan, I will establish you to your satisfaction—you shall ever have a particular place in my esteem : In the mean time, make yourself as easy as possible, matters may not be so desperate as they appear ; your daughter may yet be restored to you in safety.”

The conference broke up, and Kerim gave orders to his chief Eunuch, to accommodate the venerable Mahumed in the best manner possible.

The Sophi proposed a turn in the garden, Mercutio and his friends followed. The discourse turned on the distresses of Mahumed. Kerim reprobated, in the strongest terms, the proceedings of the traitorous villain, who had been the cause of them, and sympathetically deplored his loss of property ; but expressed no concern about that of his daughter, nor about the probable consequences of her being forced away by an abominable scoundrel, who would stick at nothing to obtain the gratification of his lust and revenge : So prevalent is the idea of compulsion with regard to females among the votaries of Mahomet, that their consent to the will of their tyrants is never thought of, much less sought.

Mercutio took this opportunity of expatiating largely on the absurdity, as well as injustice, of forcing the inclinations of a woman. "Your majesty is fully sensible, that if a man is not faithful to his prince by inclination, it is morally impossible to secure his fidelity by force: It is true, he may be compelled to render some services, however contrary to his will; but even these will inevitably cease, whenever a relaxation of the compulsive power occurs. How widely different are the services so extorted, from those which flow from a sincere desire to please; which are performed voluntarily, void of any kind of compulsion or restraint."

"Your observation is certainly just," replied the Sophi, "but I am not convinced that the simile will equally apply to females; however, we will discourse further on the subject this evening, and if you can by pure dint of reason, demonstrate the impropriety of a custom so long, and so universally established in all the eastern nations, I shall readily submit."

In the evening, Augustus hinted to the Sophi, the desire of Mercutio to be admitted into the Harem. "His curiosity shall be gratified," said he, "for I neither can nor will refuse him any favor in my power to grant." They were just then joined by Mercutio and Charles. "Well, my friends," said Kerim, "I am glad of your company, at this time particularly, as I feel anxious to renew the conversation with Mer-

cutio: My mind has been exercised, since morning, in an unusual manner, several circumstances have been presented to my imagination, which never existed there before, and which I wish to have placed in proper points of view; but we will defer the matter until Ab-bas, (who rode without the walls for exercise,) returns, in order that he may improve by our conversation: In the interim, I will introduce you into my Harem, Mercutio has never seen the variety of beauties which it contains, neither has any man ever been admitted, myself and the Eunuchs who have the care of the women, excepted."

He then conducted them into his repository of female slaves, who in a short time made their appearance, and having received their instructions from the Eunuch, who introduced them, began to sing as before.

Mercutio and his friends paid very little attention to the harmony, they remarked the countenances of the whole, and Mercutio very readily distinguished the two who had been so particularly noted by his friends before.

The Sophi at length gave the females a signal to withdraw, after which he asked Mercutio his opinion of the performance, and beauty of his women, who answered, that, in his judgment, their voices were exceedingly melodious, and their persons, generally, were not in-

terior to any that had come under his observation in any country.

The evening being remarkably fine, the Sophi proposed spending an hour or two in the gardens, where they were soon joined by Abbass, who informed his father, that he had just received a letter from his kinsman, Azounkar : By this they learnt that the daughter of Mahumed had just returned to Herat, and after having used her utmost diligence to discover the retreat of her parents, without success, had applied to him for intelligence, and finding he was not able to give any account of them, she was on the point of destroying herself, but was prevented. When her phrenzy had subsided, he interrogated her concerning those violent emotions ; she related the circumstances of her having been seized and torn from the arms of her mother, by Selim Abbasi, adding, that she had been conveyed to a great distance, on horseback, surrounded entirely by armed horsemen ; and that she had been kept a close prisoner ever since, until some days ago, when she had the good fortune to escape from her confinement.

This villain having repeatedly attempted to win her to his embraces, sometimes by flattery, at others by threats, and finding all his art insufficient to procure the gratification of his lust, he at length determined on force, and with that intent entered the room where she was confined. Finding her aversion stronger than ever, drew a dagger from his gash, swearing by Mahomet, if

she resisted his will any longer, he would sheathe it in her heart. The sense of her unhappy situation deprived her of reason for some time. When she recovered, she burst into tears and he taking advantage of her confusion, seized her in his arms and carried her to a couch, in spite of her struggles, in order to accomplish his vile purpose by main force, and would certainly have succeeded, had not her eye caught the dagger, and, believing her ruin inevitable, resolutely seized and plunged it into his heart. Half-distracted with grief and horror, she arose, and with the reeking instrument of death in her hand, resolved to explore a passage, or sacrifice her life in the attempt. She was met on the stair-case by an old Eunuch, who had been her jailer, he attempted to intercept her flight; but she fearless as the tygress, gave him a mortal wound, as she supposed, and left him in the same grovelling posture, with his infamous master: Then pressing towards the outer door, she opened it and rushed forth, penetrated with all the horrors which such a train of circumstances must have naturally inspired.

Mere accident, as it should seem, directed her into the direct road to Herat, and after a few days, arrived in her native city, sorely fatigued, and under great depression of spirits.

He further added, that it appeared to him likely, that Mahumed would shape his course for Ispahan, and, if that should be the case, requested his uncle to

cause the earliest intelligence to be transmitted to him, as he was apprehensive his daughter would take some opportunity to end her days by violent means, if she did not hear some news of her parents very shortly.

“Gracious Alla!” exclaimed Kerim, “what an atrocious villain has here met his just reward! a villain of the most unjust and obdurate kind! who, so far from being content with the ruin of that honorable and virtuous character, her father, would have imbrued his hands in the blood of his innocent, unoffending daughter, merely for refusing the embraces of her father’s mortal enemy.”

Mahumed was then sent for, and the welcome tidings of his daughter announced to him.

“Thanks to the immortal Alla! exclaimed he in extasy: Thou hast been graciously pleased to hear and grant the ardent desires of my heart, which I have unceasingly poured out before thee, for the preservation of a dear and only child, ever since she has been so cruelly separated from my protecting arms! Blessings attend the noble Azoukar! May the immortal Prophet, whom all the faithful continually serve, shower down his choicest blessings on the head of the benevolent, the beloved Kerim! With a heart distended with joy and gratitude, I will now take my departure from Ishan. My beloved Zobeide is yet ignorant of the joyful information.—I hasten to remove the load of distress which sorely oppresses the tenderest of bosoms.

"To-morrow we will set out for Herat; I already anticipate the renewed pleasure of clasping my dear Zayde to this breast, and of intermingling, with hers, my tears of joy. May Kerim live and reign, long and happily over a loyal people! And when it shall please the great Alla, to translate him to those regions of eternal felicity, which he has appointed for the reception of the virtuous, mayest thou, O Abbass! dignify the Persian diadem, by acts of benevolence and virtue: The scourge and terror of traitors; and the boast and glory of every loyal Persian!"

Thus, the venerable Mahumed, fraught with loyalty and gratitude, and on the impatient wing of expectation, was on the point of setting out on the instant, had not the Sophi prevented him. "Mahumed," said Kerim, "you must not leave us thus. Your loyal services rendered to our whole house, as well as your undeviating rectitude of conduct in private life, are not, cannot be forgotten: A sure, though late, reward awaits your fidelity.

"The journey to Herat is long and toilsome, and I wish to see your daughter restored to you, I will dispatch a faithful servant to our beloved kinsman Azounkar, with our orders to receive and conduct her hither with speed and safety, she will be here in much less time than it would take you to go there. Go comfort thy Zobeide, and abide with us until thy daughter ar-

rives: Thou shalt experience that regard which thy noble actions have merited."

The venerable Persian, overwhelmed with a sense of the Sophi's munificence, was unable to reply for some minutes, then, as if recovering from a lethargy, exclaimed "Yes, generous Kerim! Soul of thy illustrious predecessor! I am resolved, if my daughter is restored, I will remain in Ispahan until the angel of death shall press his chilling finger on my eye-lids.—I haste to inform my beloved Zobeide of the safety of her child."

When Mahumed had withdrawn, Kerim was very liberal of his encomiums on the great actions, and invincible fidelity of the good old man, and expressed much satisfaction at having prevailed on him to remain in Ispahan. He immediately issued the necessary orders, for the express to Herat: This commission was given to a well tried officer, whose honour was undoubted. "What," said Kerim to Mercutio, "do you think of the conduct of this old man's daughter?" "I think she acted perfectly right," replied our hero, "for there was no alternative; her life, or what was of infinitely more consequence, her virtue, was at stake; and, had she acted otherwise, one or the other she must have surrendered; but by employing the means which were providentially placed within her reach, she bravely preserved both, at the same time that she rid the world of an unfeeling, treacherous villain; and

I am also of opinion, that if half the pains were taken to instil into the female part of the world, a proper notion of chastity, and a nice sense of female delicacy, as there are to implant in the minds of the other sex the most exalted ideas of military valour, female fortitude would become formidable, seduction more difficult, and, consequently, less frequent.

“I know,” continued he, “that local prejudices are hard to surmount, which is a very weighty obstacle to the acceptance of any principles, however liberal, if considered as opposing those prejudices. It is next to impossible, for a person bred in a land of universal liberty, where every idea of arbitrary power, or constraint of lawful, rational inclination is obliterated as soon as conceived, to convey a just sense of the propriety of the customs of his own country, into the mind of a person, whose whole mode of education has been calculated to inspire him with sentiments diametrically opposite; whose political creed is (by the mere force of education, for no man in a state of nature ever entertained such ideas) uncontrouled dominion and freedom of speech and sentiment to the very few, who by hereditary success or conquest, acquire power; and the most implicit obedience and abject submission of opinion in the many, who are too weak or too servile, to oppose such an unjust and unreasonable custom.

“Let us for a moment advert to first principles, that is, let us take a view of man in his natural state. Here

we find him perfectly free in the exercise of all his faculties, mental and corporal: The great author of his existence himself, has imposed no constraint on any of his thoughts, words or actions, but such as are unreasonable, unjust and ungenerous, all which must have a tendency to destroy his own happiness. Hence we must see and acknowledge that the principal design of the Creator in calling man into existence, was to render him happy: This is sufficiently proved by his permitting him to employ all lawful, and rational means, in the searching for and securing it; and prohibiting the performance of any and every action which might in its consequences obstruct him in the pursuit.

“As it is impossible to divide or separate the human species, without destroying the whole visible creation, we must naturally infer, that woman was invested with the same, or similar privileges, and, being palpably intended for an assistant (not slave) to man, in the preservation of the species, and in procuring the necessities of life; most undoubtedly was designed to be a partaker with him in that happiness, which the Creator allotted him, and on the same conditions; this granted, it is clear, that no power on earth has a right to deprive her of those privileges so long as she remains virtuous, nor to subject her to the will of any man, without her own consent. Would it not be looked on as a most unsufferable act of tyranny in any prince or other supreme power, to enact a law subjecting the inclination and pursuits of the subject to the caprice of such,

as by stratagem or force could get him into their power? Would not the whole world combine, and justly too, to abolish such an abominable edict? And shall we, who turn with horror from such flagrant injustice, with respect to one part of the human species, under sanction of a law too, shall we, I say, exercise a far more tyrannical sway over the other, and that the most beautiful and defenceless part, and which, if treated with tenderness and justice, is capable of affording us more pleasure than all the rest of the creation put together? Shall we deprive ourselves of the most delightful intercourse on earth, merely in compliance with a vile custom, which reduces us to a level with the brute beasts that roam uncontrouled through the flocks and herds, subjecting all those of inferior strength to themselves?"

"My dear friend," said Kerim, "It was not till very lately that I ever devoted one moment to reflection on this subject, and until now I never saw it in the point of view wherein you have justly placed it, and I must do you the justice to confess, that your reasoning has inspired me with such a turn of thinking, as I never had before, and, I am firmly of opinion, I never should have acquired, had I been deprived the happiness of seeing you: My conviction is nearly completed, but, do you think there exists any real difference between a forced embrace, and that which is the result of mutual consent?"

“As much as between light and darkness! Your majesty, no doubt, remembers, that, in a conversation, you intimated to me your dislike to the disguised constraint which you perceived in the behavior of the most of those who were near your person; their speeches, your majesty observed, were studied, and of course dry and vapid. Your majesty added, that by the double dealing of theirs, you were deprived of one principal ingredient in the happiness of life, namely, unrestrained conversation, wherein the sentiments of the heart are communicated without dissimulation or reserve.

“Your majesty may also remember, that you had taken much pains to inspire them with necessary confidence, in order to procure that pleasure, which you found was not to be obtained without.

“The case is similar to the much desired correspondence with the fair sex: It would be just as rational to attempt to incorporate water with oil, as to expect sincerity from a woman who knows she is deprived of her liberty for no other purpose than to minister to the lusts of one, who so far from entertaining the least regard for her, that independent of the gratification of his gross, sensual appetite, considers her as scarcely superior to a quadruped: Instead of a thousand indescribable graces, peculiar to her sex, which, when judiciously employed as auxiliaries, seldom fail to soften the most unsusceptible hearts, and captivate the greatest conquerors: She suppresses every intruding charm;

not a word, a motion, or even a glance of her eye, but is calculated to inspire the most disgusting ideas, carefully avoiding every motion that might have a contrary effect. Love is not, like youth and beauty, to be purchased by riches and honours : It must and will be free, it is incapable of confinement or restraint, and gathers strength in a tenfold proportion to the opposition of his progress.

“ True it is, that even in England, I have known women, so dazzled by the glare of riches and titles, that they have surrendered themselves into the arms of men, whom they heartily despised ; who were notwithstanding so blind as to suppose, that it was the love of their persons which had captivated the affection of their ladies ; when the money was the only object : But I never knew a couple of this description, but were miserable the rest of their lives. It is morally impossible for a woman to divide her affections equally between two men ; and as much so for a man to love a plurality of women at the same time, and as we are more tenacious in matters of this kind than in any other concernment of life, the bare idea of a division of that tenderness which is the source and support of the intercourse between the sexes ; and of which nothing less than the undivided whole can satisfy, is sufficient, of itself, to elevate the passions to a degree of madness, and to destroy every degree of confidence between the parties.

“It is the height of absurdity for a man to seize on, and confine a young creature, and to expect her to contribute to his own happiness without first rendering her happy, which is only to be done by permitting her to think for herself, and act as she pleases ; by convincing her that he loves her for herself, and independently of all the rest of her sex ; such disinterested conduct would inspire her with confidence in his sincerity ; that confidence is the basis of friendship will readily be granted ; and that the transition from friendship to love is easy, will not be denied.

“ If these few broken hints were seriously examined, all prejudices laid aside, and fair play given to the natural feelings and dictates of common sense, the Seraglio of Achmet, would soon be purged of its boasted beauties, and that monarch would enjoy infinitely more pleasure in the conversation of one, who should remain voluntarily, than he now does in the forced obsequiousness of the numerous female slaves, who wait his nod and despise him.

“ I perceive your drift,” said Kerim ; “ you would insinuate that I as well as the Grand Seignior, by divesting myself of the prejudice of education, would readily perceive the propriety of adopting a plan of conduct similar to that, which, by pointing out its contrast, as you have just done, and proved to be the most proper method of securing my own happiness ; great part of which would be derived from a

consciouness of having contributed to that of those females, who may pant to return to their friends and country ; and in a firm confidence in the attachment of such as might choose to remain. But, my dear friend, you seem not to be sufficiently aware of a circumstance which, under the new establishment, would be of great moment to me in the realizing those scenes of bliss which you have pointed in such glowing colours. It might so happen that all might choose to depart ; or if any remained by choice, they might not possess qualifications to suit me : How am I to proceed in either of these cases ? You have by removing one evil introduced another.

That apparent evil is no obstacle, and, when the matter is viewed in its proper light, will vanish instantly. Only reflect one moment, how many noble families in the Persian empire would consider, as the most supreme honour that could possibly be conferred on them, an alliance with their sovereign. By making a choice of this nature, without the least shadow of compulsion or arbitrary power, your majesty will effectually secure all that happiness which I have been describing, and which cannot be obtained by any other means.

“I yield,” said the noble Kerim. “Your arguments, though diametrically opposite to the principles in which I have been educated, are nevertheless founded in reason and justice, and cannot fail to enforce convic-

tion when attended to without prejudice, therefore I cannot withhold my acquiescence.

“ From this day forward, I shall consider every human being, male and female, as proceeding from the same Omnipotent hand which gave existence to all ; and, of course, entitled to the common rights of all. If any or all the females of my Harem desire their dismissal, I will not only give orders for their enlargement, but will also furnish them with the necessary means of returning to their respective countries and connections immediately. To-morrow I will begin this work of reformation, a work that will astonish the whole world, and as you, (to Mercutio,) have clearly convinced me of the propriety of such a measure, I request you and your friends to attend, and be witness to the first fruits of that conviction.”

“ Excellent prince !” exclaimed every voice. “ This single act of yours, will immortalize your royal name more than the most glorious victory you ever yet obtained : You have now gained a victory indeed ! A victory without bloodshed ! A victory over your own passions and prejudices !

“ This noble resolution will entail blessings on your royal progeny, will inspire your subjects with (if possible) a still greater reverence for your sacred person, and will establish your majesty in a state of felicity to

which the illiberal and licentious part of mankind is totally estranged."

The night being far advanced, they retired to rest, promising themselves abundance of satisfaction the ensuing day.

The next morning, they found the Sophi uncommonly cheerful, and conversing on the proposed business of the day; he informed them that the number of his women was seventeen, natives of almost as many countries, viz. two from Russia, one from Denmark, one from Prussia, two from Spain, two from France, six from different provinces of Persia, one from Constantinople and two from England.

"The two last mentioned," said he, "I have endeavoured by all the means in my power to inspire with sentiments agreeable to my own wishes; but in vain, and I candidly assure you all, that if it should happen to be the choice of either of them to remain here, I will take her to my arms this day and make her joint partner in my bed and throne. But I have no hope of this being the case; for a settled melancholy preys on their minds, and it seems as if they found a degree of pleasure in indulging it. However, there is at least a possibility, that when they are acquainted with my real wishes, matters may take a favorable turn.

"I have this morning informed them all by the mouth of my son (I chose to employ him in this business, in order to impress the circumstance on his mind so as it might not be easily eradicated) of my intentions, and the result is, they all begged to be dismissed except the lady from Spain and one of the Persians, whom I would willingly dismiss also ; (the two from England believing the whole to be a falsehood, have given no answer.)

"If neither of the English ladies can be prevailed on to accept such offers as I am ready to make, I will send them away and in pursuance of your advice, will look out for a female of an honorable family, with whom I may hope for that happiness which you have assured me is to be found in the undivided affections of one only."

Mercurio felt a strong inclination to converse with his fair country-women : He communicated his desire to Kerim, who immediately gave orders to an Euntuch to conduct them to a private apartment, for that purpose : His order was instantly obeyed, and our hero flew on the wings of curiosity to meet them.

On being admitted, he approached them in a respectful manner, and, saluting them in their own language, requested them to banish their surprize ; informed them that his only motive for requesting the favor of the interview, was merely for the happiness of a few minutes

conversation, and begged them to consider him as a person much interested in their welfare : He immediately discovered them to be the same who had, more than all the rest, attracted the notice of himself and his friends, in the Harem.

They were astonished at such a prelude, and were unable to form a conjecture of its leading object ; and for some moments remained silent. Reflecting, however, on their situation, they conceived his professions to be founded in artifice, and only calculated to throw them off their guard, and to inveigle them into a compliance with the desires of the Sophi, whom they considered in no other light than as a libidinous tyrant, who wished to rise them of that treasure which they were determined to preserve unpolluted, though at the hazard of their lives.

They returned his salute with a kind of distant civility, and one of them informed him, that their virtue had been sufficiently tampered with without success, “ which,” said she, “ renders any further attempt to seduce us unnecessary ; therefore you may inform the tyrant who employed you to negociate this infamous business for him, that artifice will avail nothing ; that he need not expect to carry his point by stratagem, and that force will be equally ineffectual, as we are determined not to survive the loss of our honour.”

This rebuff delivered with an air of triumph, shook the confidence of Mercutio : however, by the fervency of his reply, he soon dispelled their doubts of his sincerity ; their countenances brightened, and they listened to him with manifest pleasure.

They discoursed with freedom, and he convinced them of the sincerity of the Sophi's proffer of dismissing all his females ; recited the particulars of his late conversation with him, and the resolution he had formed in consequence.

This information inspired the young ladies with new life ; their eyes emitted new rays of satisfaction as he spoke, and they became almost frantic with gratitude. They embraced him alternately, styling him their deliverer, the preserver of their honour, and in the most emphatical terms, requested him to take them under his protection.

After listening with ecstasy to those tender effusions of gratitude, and having assured them of ample protection, he entreated them to inform him what accident had reduced them to their present situation.

The lady who had first addressed him, immediately began the following narration :

“ Liverpool is the place of my nativity, where, at ten years of age, I experienced the loss of the best of mothers, my papa, disconsolate with his loss, resolv-

ed never to marry a second time, therefore sent to Bath for his sister, a maiden lady, to manage his domestic affairs, until I should arrive at years of maturity.

“ My dear aunt was so extremely kind and tender, that my grief for the loss I had sustained, was in a short time almost obliterated. I was placed at a boarding school soon after my aunt arrived, where I was visited by my papa or my aunt once a fortnight, during my stay there. Having received such an education as was considered adequate to my sex and expectations, I returned to town, and my days rolled on happily for two years. At length, however, it pleased God to call my good aunt from this stage of care and anxiety ; by which, much regretted circumstance, I became possessed of seven thousand pounds in the funds, and an annuity of three hundred per annum.

“ A few months after my aunt's decease, my papa having occasion to transact some affairs in Holland, where his immediate presence was absolutely necessary, he left me to choose whether I would go and reside with a distant relation in Bristol, or accompany him in his voyage. I chose the latter without hesitation.

“ In Amsterdam I formed an acquaintance with my companion, which soon ripened into a reciprocal friendship that has been gaining strength every day since.

“ My papa, well acquainted with her brother, Mr. Wilcox, took lodgings in his house, where, after having

settled his affairs, to my unspeakable grief, he was attacked by a malignant fever and kind of influenza, which in the course of six weeks made me fatherless.

“ In the early part of his illness, he made his will, appointing Mr. Wilcox his principal executor, and besides constituting him his special attorney, to recover several rents and sums of money not disposed of by will.

“ I remained with Miss Wilcox and brother, who were in expectation of the arrival of their parents in Holland, when they intended to embark for England, whither I expected to accompany them ; but an unfortunate circumstance took place, which destroyed all our hopes, and was the cause of our being reduced to the shocking situation in which you have found us ; but as the latter part of the narrative more immediately relates to Miss Wilcox, she will relate the particulars.”

The other lady then began as follows :—

“ Miss Sydney has informed you, Sir, that our intimacy commenced in Amsterdam : Though this is the case, I am not a native of Holland. Florence is the place of my nativity, where I left my father and mother, besides a dearly beloved sister with her husband, an Englishman, who is as dear to my parents as either of my brothers.

“ My father is a native of Great-Britain, my mother of Florence, where he has been a resident more than

thirty years, and pursues the mercantile business, in which few merchants have been more successful, as his correspondence is fixed on the most extensive scale ; he has several ships at sea—my eldest brother commands one of them, in which he trades to the Levant ; and the other has been my father's factor in Amsterdam, several years : When he left Florence, I accompanied and remained with him until about six months ago.

“ It is now about a year since, a young gentleman, a native of Scotland, named Cameron, arrived in Amsterdam, and took lodgings in the house adjoining ours.

“ As Mr. Cameron and my brother were engaged in the same line of business, they soon contracted an intimacy ; Mr. Cameron frequented our house on the footing of my brother's bosom friend, and as such I regarded him. He had not been more than two months when he gave me to understand that I was not indifferent to him ; he took every convenient opportunity to convince me of the sincerity of his professions ; but for some time I paid very little attention to his discourse on this subject, as I felt no wish to alter my situation, and considered all the attention he paid me as a thing of course ; therefore scarcely retained a syllable of his discourse from one hour to another. However, time, which changes the face and situation of all things, made, in the course of six weeks, so material an alteration in my mind, that I sometimes was on the point of doubting my own sanity ; but when I at length

took myself to task seriously, I did not find that unconcerned person, I had set myself down for. I found, notwithstanding all the shifts and excuses made to myself, that I had admitted a dangerous inmate, one that I dreaded would one day become a troublesome guest, and lead me into difficulties, perhaps inextricable; Alas! those forebodings are in a great measure realized! May Heaven grant I have experienced all the unhappiness which has resulted from my imprudence in consenting to leave Amsterdam.

“Not to trouble you with a tedious recital of trivial events, uninteresting to all perhaps but myself, I found a strong prepossession in favor of Mr. Cameron, which all my endeavors proved too languid to subdue: Mutual declarations of reciprocal attachment, was the result of our frequent interviews; and it was at length agreed, that Mr. Cameron should disclose the matter to my brother, and urge him to consent to our union: In this consultation and agreement, however, I lost sight of my duty, in not taking into consideration the necessity of my parents consent in a matter of such importance.

“My brother, as might have been expected, peremptorily rejected the proposal, as a very improper one, and expressed his surprize that Mr. Cameron had made it. “If my father was dead,” said he, “it is not improbable that I might consent; at any rate the proposal would in that case, have stronger appearance of propriety; but as that is not the case, I must insist on its being referred to him as to the only person in the

world who inherits the proper right to agree to, or reject it." "He expostulated with me in private, in the most serious, and at the same time, tender manner; he exhorted me in the most forcible terms, to act cautiously in the matter, and conjured me by every tie of consanguinity, not to suffer my affections for Mr. Cameron to extinguish the remembrance of my duty; nor to silence the admonitions of religion and reason.

"I was immediately sensible of my error—acknowledged the justice of his remarks, and proposed to avoid the company of Mr. Cameron until the arrival of my father."

"No, my dear sister," said he, "that is too great, sudden and perhaps dangerous a sacrifice to make. Mr. Cameron is a man of worth and probity, I have not the least doubt of his intentions and wishes being strictly honorable; and it would afford me the highest satisfaction to see you happily united to so good a character: Perhaps I have given his feelings a momentary pang, by such a positive refusal; but he is thoroughly sensible of the sincerity of my regard for him, therefore, one moment of cool reflection will remove it."

"Mr. Cameron was somewhat uneasy at first, but my brother took an opportunity of explaining the matter, and quickly convinced him of the necessity which obliged him to refuse his friend what he would much rather have granted.

“ Their friendship suffered no diminution or relaxation in consequence of this circumstance, on the contrary, it was founded on a more broad and permanent basis than ever.

“ Mr. Cameron, notwithstanding the repulse he had met with, resolved to make one effort more, in order to facilitate our union : In short, my brother, Mr. Cameron and myself, were fully persuaded, that the consent of all my friends would be easily and quickly obtained, and we all ardently wished for their arrival : A letter, however, from Florence arriving just at that period, informed us, that owing to some unexpected delays which had taken place, their embarkation would not be in less than twenty-five days. Mr. Cameron received this news like a sentence of death : He withdrew early in the evening, and I saw him no more for three days.

“ He entered on the morning of the fourth, just as we had sat down to breakfast—and was as cheerful as I ever saw him. “ Robert,” said he, “ you have your affairs very near, if not entirely settled, suppose you and I were to take a trip to Florence ? There is a ship ready to sail in three days to Leghorn—it is a pleasant voyage, and will be an agreeable surprize to your friends to see you once more on your native soil, before they leave it forever.”

“ Well,” replied my brother, “ it’s an odd whim, and yet if it was not for an appointment I have made to

meet a gentleman in Leyden, on business of very great importance, exactly on this day week, I verily believe I should accept your invitation."

"I am sorry," said Mr. Cameron, "that your appointment will deprive me of your company, for I will certainly go. Come, ladies, as Mr. Wilcox is going to Leyden, you may as well accompany me, I am a stranger to every one there, and have need of some person to introduce me to Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox."

"I blushed and felt embarrassed, I knew not why. Miss Sydney and myself retired.

"At dinner, my brother informed me that he had actually given his consent for us to go to Florence, in case we would grant him ours.

"We looked at each other some minutes without making any reply. He proceeded—"Come, don't hesitate; Miss Sydney has never been in Italy—it will be an agreeable trip, and I dare engage you will not repent it: Mr. Cameron desired me to make this request; for (said he archly) Miss Wilcox will not refuse me so rational a favor——You have very little preparation to make, and I am sure he will employ every means to render your voyage agreeable."

"We at length consented, embarked and sailed.

"For several days, we enjoyed the most perfect satisfaction; a violent tempest however overtook us, which tossed us about three days and as many nights, during which time the Captain and mariners lost all hope; which Mr. Cameron carefully concealed from us, and used every endeavor to keep us in good spirits, which, was a very difficult matter. But, by his appearing uniformly cheerful, we were deceived in respect to our danger, till one morning early, we were alarmed by the discharge of ordnance. The fire continued near half an hour, in which time Miss Sydney and myself were in the utmost distress; the more so, as Mr. Cameron had not been below during the confusion.

"Conceive, if you can, Sir, what terror and astonishment pervaded our souls, when, after listening attentively for some time, and hearing men's voices, we perceived three men with turbans on their heads, and cimeters in their hands, enter the cabin!

"I uttered a loud shriek, and involuntarily called for Mr. Cameron. Miss Sydney instantly dropt into my arms motionless, which, I think prevented me from fainting—as my care for her in that moment, took place of every reflection on my own personal danger.

"The Turks, for such they were, ransacked the cabin of every thing of value that was portable—breaking up our trunks, the Captain's escrutoire, &c. &c.

"They discoursed in a language we did not understand, at the same time pointing at Miss Sydney and me alternately, which left me no room to doubt of our situation, or of our being the subject of their discourse.

"Miss Sydney had just recovered sufficiently to be sensible of our horrid predicament, when I heard a voice upon deck pronounce in Spanish, which I understood :
"Make haste on board the galley—the prize is sinking."

"We were instantly compelled to leave the cabin, and repair upon deck. Our people were already on board the Pirate's vessel, and we were forced to follow, with weeping eyes and palpitating hearts.

"The first object that met my sight, was Mr. Cameron: Two of the Pirates were chaining him to the seat where he was compelled to sit by the side of one of our seamen and row. The Captain was slain in the skirmish.

"This sight deprived me of my senses for some time ; my own distress was totally forgot, and the thought of his being in that situation, rent my heart with anguish. It would be difficult to attempt a description of what I suffered on seeing him reduced to such extreme distress, more especially as I was fully sensible that his love for me alone had induced him to undertake the voyage. I well knew he considered himself as the cause of my ruin, which he no doubt concluded inevitable.

“ On the other hand, I reproached myself as the origin of all the misfortunes, particularly those of Miss Sydney and myself. Mr. Cameron’s hard fate would have been the same had I not consented to accompany him ; but Miss Sydney and myself might have been happy in Amsterdam, had I been prudent enough to have refused.

“ The Pirate conveyed us to Constantinople, where it was our good fortune to be transferred to a man, who brought us, without uttering one syllable, to this place ; I call it good fortune, because we have been so happy as to meet with you, Sir, by whose generous interposition, I am in hopes of being restored to my friends and country once more.

“ But where, oh where shall I seek for Mr. Cameron ? Perhaps in this only interval of tranquillity we have experienced since our separation, he is subjected to all the injuries and insults of cruel Barbarians.

“ The Sophi has employed all means but force to seduce us to his bed—his attempts have hitherto been fruitless. Miss Sydney has informed you of our resolution, never to survive the loss of honor, but vigorously to oppose every attempt to degrade us, and when death and ruin contend for dominion, cheerfully resign ourselves unpolluted, into the arms of the former, as the only sure alternative to escape the latter.”

"Here she made a pause, and Mercutio, after politely thanking her for her condescension, asked her the name of that brother whom she had mentioned as following the sea. "His name is Nathaniel, Sir," said she.

"I have the honor of being intimately acquainted with your brother, as well as all the other friends you left in Florence," said he ; "and can assure you, he was in this city since you have been here."

This unexpected information astonished the ladies—they eagerly requested him to relate all he knew of Captain Wilcox and his friends. He fully gratified them, and added, if they were willing to submit themselves to his care and protection, he would pledge his honor to see them restored to their friends. He informed them of his design of travelling through Russia, being determined to trust himself no more on the Mediterranean.

To this proposal they mutually agreed, when he took his leave, with a promise of procuring their release-ment in a very short time.

Having rejoined his company in the garden, he communicated the result of his conversation—It was agreed, to invest Isabella with the necessary powers to liberate the ladies. This commission she undertook with pleasure—happy in having it in her power to administer relief to distressed innocence. She hastened joy-

fully to the spot, and communicated her business to them in a few words, and immediately conducted them to the garden, where the Sophi and his friends were busy in discourse.

The two young ladies expressed their gratitude to their deliverers in the most animated terms, and invoked the favor of Heaven in behalf of Kerim ; who in the cordial manner in which he saluted them, and the lively satisfaction visible in his countenance, exhibited a convincing proof of the reality of that unadulterated pleasure which is the never failing result of conscious rectitude : This reflection alone is sufficient to stimulate us to a punctual discharge of every moral and social duty, not only as such, but as a pleasure.

In the vicissitudes of fortune, place and circumstances which these young ladies experienced, the directing hand of Providence may be readily traced. Had not the Turk, who captured them, providentially met with the Persian to whom he sold them, it is more than probable, they would have been consigned to the seraglio of the Grand Senior, where they might have lingered out their days in superlative misery. Had they been less virtuous, they would have met the advances of the Persian monarch, which would have proved an effectual bar to the performance of such extraordinary acts of self-denial, as Kerim had imposed on himself ; and had not Providence directed Mercutio and his friends to Isfahan—or being there, had not happened to have

been the means of preserving the life of young Abbass, the whole concatenation must have been deranged, and the happy circumstance just described, could never have taken place.

Let the Atheist and Libertine—the one deny the existence of a God, and the other doubt the interposition of Divine Providence; yet, it is an undeniable truth, confirmed both by reason and revelation, and of which they will sooner or later be fatally convinced, that God is invariably the patron of virtue and punisher of vice; and however the latter may, in the deluded opinion of its votaries, triumph over the former, its fancied superiority is but an empty shade—it is not capable of affording one single moment's felicity, and a melancholy catastrophe closes the scene; while on the other hand, virtue, though apparently distressed, and often really embarrassed and beset with enemies, is productive of self-consolation; and never fails to rise superior to every surrounding evil: In short, the result of an undeviating perseverance in the practice of virtue, is **HAPPINESS**.

Perhaps an enquiry into the fate of Mr. Wilcox and family, will not be unacceptable to the reader, in this stage of the narrative; at all events I shall venture on it. Mr. Cameron, too, having been so intimately acquainted with his son and daughter, deserves a share of our attention.

The former, we left at Constantinople, in the house provided by the Renegado who had captured them ; the latter arrived there three days after. The very day after Isabella was taken from them, they were all taken out, in the habit of slaves, and exposed to public sale. They had stood more than two hours in this humiliating situation, when Mr. Wilcox noticed a man who seemed to view them with a solicitous eye ; at length, he stepped up to the old gentleman and craved his name. He had no sooner received the required information, than he turned short on his heel and approached the Renegado, who was at a small distance, and after some discourse, agreed with him for his whole capture ; and taking him home to his own house, paid his demand and took his receipt.

The purchaser immediately hastened back to the spot where he had left the unhappy captives, and again addressing Mr. Wilcox, asked him if he would be willing to pass his bond to a person who would advance the money to ransom him and his company. He answered in the affirmative, and eagerly enquired his benefactor's name. " Suspend your curiosity for some time," said the stranger, " you shall be informed in due time : In the interim, you and your friends will accompany me to my house, it is not far off."

They were all filled with astonishment, but followed in silence. The stranger welcomed them to his house, and having drawn up a bond for the sum paid to the Renegado, laid it before him for signing.

On perusing the bond, Mr. Wilcox discovered his kind host to be a certain Aaron Levi, an eminent Jewish merchant, with whom he formerly had extensive dealings, and for whom he had once, not only negotiated a difficult piece of business, but also advanced a very considerable sum of money for him, which prevented the institution of a troublesome, if not ruinous lawsuit.

Levi's conduct on this occasion deserves our warmest approbation, and his manner of performing this disinterested action, enhanced the value of the favor in a ten fold degree.

The whole company expressed their sense of the obligation in the most ardent terms: Levi, however, seemed somewhat distressed with their acknowledgments, intreated them to desist, adding, that he had but discharged a debt long and lawfully due to Mr. Wilcox, and which he had long since wished for an opportunity of paying. Mr. Wilcox then executed the bond, and Levi continued: "You must unavoidably remain here some weeks. My house you see is large and commodious, and you are welcome to make your home here until you have an opportunity of sailing for Holland; in the mean time, I insist on your accepting what money will be necessary to defray your expences, as I have enough of it, and you shall partake of it to the last ducat."

Without giving time for a reply, he desired the men to step aside with him a few minutes. He then conducted them to another apartment, where he furnished them with money, and gave them every necessary instruction with regard to clothes, and other necessities—left them full of grateful acknowledgments, requesting them to excuse him, as he had business of moment to transact that evening.

By the timely assistance of Levi, these people, who but a few hours before, reduced to a situation similar to the barbarously-treated Africans, having been exposed as objects of traffic, were now in the full enjoyment of personal freedom, together with the means of procuring the necessaries and even luxuries of life.

In this desirable situation we will leave them, while we take a view of that of Mr. Cameron, who was landed a prisoner in Constantinople, the second day after the foregoing favorable change in their affairs took place.

George Wright happened to be standing at the very spot where Mr. Cameron and several others were brought on shore, and instantly perceiving they were in the same predicament in which he and his companions had so lately been, surveyed them with the most earnest attention. The Turk spoke to them in broken English, and George, anxious to hear the subject of his discourse, advanced near enough to understand that he was treating with a young man (Cameron) about his ransom. The latter requested permission to write to his friends in

England ; and to remain unfold at Constantinople, until the money should arrive ; and assured the Turk he should then have his full demand, which, by the bye was no less than seven thousand crowns : The Pirate appeared willing to agree, if any person could be found who would ensure the conveyance of the letter ; but this he very much doubted.

George, finding the business thus interesting, drew near, and entered into discourse with the young man, who was glad to hear the voice of an Englishman there, and at liberty ; earnestly intreated his advice and assistance ; and told him the name of a nobleman to whom he intended to apply for the stipulated sum, as he was a relation to whom he was well known, and on whom he could confidently depend for relief.

George promised him all possible assistance, and suggested, as the most probable method to expedite the business proposed, the propriety of an application to the British Consul; felicitating his assistance in the matter.

Cameron approved the proposal, and George having provided him the necessary implements for writing, he addressed a pathetic letter to the Consul, in which he gave a distressing description of his situation ; and subjoined the ground of his expectations in England, and lastly, requested his direction and assistance to procure the much desired relief, without delay or disappointment.

Having sealed this, he delivered it to George, who immediately set out, resolving to execute his commission with promptitude and punctuality.

The Consul, after perusing the letter, desired to see the bearer, who was instantly admitted. After some preliminary questions concerning the writer of the letter, he enquired how long he himself had been in Constantinople?

George satisfied him in all his interrogatories; but when he began to press him for an answer to the letter, he desired him to sit down and inform him in what part of the city he had left the author of the letter, adding, that he had a desire to see him, and would attend him to the spot, was he not prevented by the gout: At all events (said he) I will dispatch a servant with a message to his owner, which will probably procure his liberty for some time at least.

George proposed carrying the message himself, which the Consul did not oppose; but immediately writing a small note, delivered it to him, when he set out, and in a short time put it into the hands of the Renegado, who perused the billet; and turning to a Moorish boy, whispered something in his ear, who instantly disappeared. The Pirate then entered a house near the water-side, followed by George and Mr. Cameron; where they had not remained long, before the boy returned with a bundle, which his master ordered him to

deliver to Mr. Cameron. It contained the best suit of his wearing apparel. The Pirate also returned him his gold watch, and purse containing about thirty-five guineas. Mr. Cameron withdrew to another apartment, and having changed his habit, was at liberty to attend George to the Consul's house.

The Consul gave them a cordial reception—his condescension appeared remarkable to them both, as they were not able to conjecture the cause; the sequel, however, will solve this apparent paradox:

Mr. Cameron's mother, possessed of beauty, birth and fortune, to which may be added, wit, virtue and discretion, took the liberty at the age of twenty years, to bestow her heart and hand to the father of Mr. Cameron, a gentleman who never disgraced his name, country or religion, and was highly deserving the character he bore, which was that of a merchant of the most extensive property, and inflexible integrity: He was thirty years of age at the time of his marriage, which was contracted by and with the consent of her mother, a widow lady, and his friends; but in diametrical opposition to that of her two brothers, who, proud of their high hereditary birth, titles and pedigree, considered an alliance with a merchant, an indelible blemish to their race; and resolved, in consequence, never to forgive the CRIME she had committed against their name and dignity. The uprightness of Mr. Cameron's dealings, however, soon established his reputation among

all ranks, on an immoveable basis. His brothers-in-law, notwithstanding the false principles of honor they had imbibed by education, were by no means void of discernment or generosity; therefore, as years ripened their judgment, their prejudices vanished, and they were constrained to do justice to the merits of a relation who was a real honor to their family, by a generous and cordial reconciliation: The two families were by this means united in the strictest bonds of friendship. About this time the birth of a beautiful boy cemented the union with still greater strength; for as he grew up, he became the particular favorite of his two uncles, one of whom insisted on being at the sole expence of his education, which may be supposed was liberal.

It was to this generous uncle, that Mr. Cameron, (who was the identical son and favorite beforementioned) intended to write for the sum demanded for his ransom; (his father died before he visited Holland) and the Consul happily proved to be his other uncle.

As if actuated by one soul, the Consul and his happy nephew rose at one instant, and advancing eagerly, exchanged the warmest embraces. "My dear nephew," said the former, "though I sincerely sympathize in your misfortunes; yet, as I have it in my power to procure your freedom immediately, and have the pleasure of seeing you in perfect health, I feel a superior degree of satisfaction, in this providential opportunity of testifying at once my tenderest regard to my sister, by

manifesting the most disinterested esteem for her son, and the purest fraternal regard to my beloved brother, to whom I know you are most dear."

Mr. Cameron was overwhelmed with joy, gratitude and amazement, and after giving vent to the enthusiastic effusions of his heart, gently upbraided George, for not apprizing him of the scene he was to expect.

"The gentleman," said his uncle, interrupting him, "knew no more than yourself our consanguinity at that time. When I saw in your letter your wish to write to my brother, and your expectation of relief from him, I passed over the rest, and seeing the subscription, I was too impatient to read any more, and immediately resolved to effect your deliverance before I saw you. This gentleman has been but very lately redeemed, he has informed me, from the Turks, together with several friends and relatives, who are now in this city, waiting for an opportunity of returning to Great-Britain."

Mr. Cameron now returned the most grateful acknowledgments to George, for his kind conduct, and the Consul added a most cordial invitation to him and all his friends, to dine with him the ensuing day: He promised to deliver the message, and to attend himself.

Being now alone with his nephew, the Consul began to enquire the cause of his voyage, intended place of destination, and manner of being captured. To all of

which he answered ingenuously, and concluded with a most passionate lamentation for the loss of Miss Wilcox and her companion, Miss Sydney.

The Consul perceived, by comparing George's relation with that of his nephew, that the young lady, the loss of whom was so much deplored by the latter, must undoubtedly be the sister-in-law to the former. He communicated this suspicion to Mr. Cameron—observing, that her father was a native of England, but had been many years a resident in Florence—that he had a son in Amsterdam—and, that he had retired from business, and was returning to his native country, to spend the remainder of his days in the midst of his children, when he fell into the hands of the Infidels.

“My dear Sir,” answered Mr. Cameron, “your suspicions I plainly see are but too well founded—a thousand circumstances crowd my mind at once, and all combine to prove it. How shall I meet her parents to-morrow? Whence collect fortitude enough to support a painful interview with persons whom I have so deeply injured?—Her consent, which was in a manner extorted, to accompany me to Florence, will avail nothing with parents robbed of such a treasure; to urge it, would be little short of insult.”

The Consul agreed with his kinsman in part; but told him he had no doubt of bringing about a reconciliation. He remarked, that the recovery of the ladies

was not altogether impossible, though if in the Seraglio, extremely difficult—but thought it probable that some information might be drawn from the Pirate, which might lead to a discovery.

An intelligent domestic was immediately dispatched, and soon returned, accompanied by the Pirate, who being interrogated by the Consul, informed, that he had disposed of them to a Persian, who talked of setting out for Ispahan immediately. The Consul promised to reward him liberally, if he would immediately use every endeavor to discover the Persian, if not yet gone; and if he was, to gain every possible information of his route.

It was late in the evening when he returned, and all the intelligence he had been able to obtain was, that his name was Aspendi, a native of Ispahan, and had set out immediately after the purchase.

Mr. Cameron was no sooner informed of the course he had taken, than he formed the resolution to follow, and if possible to overtake and obtain the release of the ladies, or perish in the enterprize. He acquainted his uncle with this design: Who, although he did not altogether approve of the plan, did not attempt to dissuade him from it: On the contrary, he told him if he persisted in the undertaking, he should be at no loss for any thing necessary to the attainment of the object of his pursuit.

In order to save Mr. Cameron the confusion of being present, his uncle proposed his retiring to any adjoining chamber, where he might remain and hear all that passed between Mr. Wilcox and the company, without the mortification of being observed to betray, what he termed symptoms of guilt, until notice was given him to make his appearance.——These preliminaries being settled, they retired to rest.

At the appointed time, Mr. Wilcox, attended by all his friends, waited on the Consul, who received them with politeness and freedom; the ladies in particular, he treated with uncommon attention.

As the principal aim of the Consul in this conference, was to lay the foundation of a reconciliation between his relation and Mr. Wilcox and family, he soon found means to give the conversation a turn from general subjects, to that of the accident, which, as he expressed it, had procured him the honor of a visit from so respectable a company of Christians, in the capital of the Turkish empire.

This naturally introduced an account of Mr. Wilcox's former line of business, his connections in England, &c. The Consul generously sympathized in their misfortunes; at the same time, he assured them of his kind offices, and of a safe passport through the Straights. They testified their acknowledgments in terms of undissembled gratitude. His generosity rested not here—He had sent for Mr. Levi, whose name was just then an-

nounced by a domestic, and being introduced, was invited to sit down. "I have heard a most respectable account of you, Mr. Levi, (said the Consul) which entitles you greatly to my esteem: A good man I revere, be his name, country or religion what they may. I am further informed, that you have a bond of this gentleman's—will you be pleased to let me see it?"——He immediately produced the bond, which the Consul perused, and returned it, saying, You are a worthy man, Mr. Levi—you will give up this paper to Mr. Wilcox, and I will advance you the whole sum to-morrow, as well as all other demands you may have against him. Perceiving Mr. Wilcox about to make some acknowledgments, he prevented him by a motion of the hand.

Levi surrendered the bond with pleasure, saying, My very good friend, here is your bond, and I wish it was in my power to replace all the Pirates have deprived you of—you should then see with what cheerfulness I would serve you.

Nothing could exceed the gratitude and admiration of those people: Every remembrance of their late misfortunes were absorbed in the contemplation of the unexampled instances of magnanimity exercised towards them by the Consul and Mr. Levi: The latter apologizing for the shortness of his stay, on the score of urgent business, was excused, on condition of renewing his visit the ensuing day——He then withdrew. The Consul having now brought matters in a suitable

train, called their attention to an important piece of information, in which, he assured them, they were deeply interested.

Accordingly, after some observations, calculated to pave the way to a reconciliation between his kinsman and Mr. Wilcox, he informed them of every circumstance relative to Miss Wilcox and Mr. Cameron, as before related ; and concluded with an earnest request, that his nephew might obtain pardon of the whole family, as his error originated in the noblest of principles, and as he had the consent of their son as well as the young lady herself :—He further assured them of the sincere contrition, and of his determination to pursue the Persian who had the ladies in custody, and bring them back at the risk of his life.

His pardon was pronounced with much sincerity ; but to suppress the rising sigh and gushing tear, was an effort to which the fortitude of Mrs. Wilcox was inadequate—nor were the rest of the company unconcerned. George's wife and Terentia withdrew to vent their grief in private ; in short, a gloomy sadness diffused itself over the whole, when the preconcerted notice being given, Mr. Cameron made his appearance. He instantly advanced, and on his knees implored forgiveness of Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox, in such an affecting manner, that they both pronounced his pardon in loud, inarticulate sobs : The whole company caught the contagion, and not an eye in the room but shed the tear of sym-
pa-

thy—honorable badge of noble sentiment! of refined humanity!

Mr. Cameron began the next day to make preparations for his expedition, and was ready to sail in four days, a vessel having been provided through the interest of his uncle, for that particular service, which was to remain at Trapefond fifteen days for his return.

He had a quick and pleasant passage to Trapefond, where he was attacked with a slight intermittent, which confined him eight days to his bed. A very favorable circumstance, however, took place, which in all human probability, was a principal mean of saving his life, for his lodging was very indifferent, and medical aid was not to be obtained.

Captain Wilcox and Mr. Fitzgerald parted in Ardevil; the latter shaped his course through Tesslis to Afracan, and the former proceeded to Trapefond, in order to take shipping for Constantinople. Captain Wilcox fortunately took his quarters at the identical house where Mr. Cameron was lying sick. As all the Eastern languages, by his long intercourse with the natives, had become as habitual to him as his own, he discoursed with ease in any of them. His first enquiry after his arrival, was for a vessel bound to Constantinople. He was informed, there was but one, and that was to remain some time, to wait for a gentleman who was lying there sick.

This information naturally led to an enquiry of where he came from? whither he was bound? and what his complaint was? To the first of these questions only, he received a satisfactory answer, and being informed he was not a Musselman, expressed a desire to see him. He was accordingly conducted to his apartment, where he found him in a very languid state: His good constitution had conquered the malady, and all that was then necessary, was some powerful restoratives to re-establish him in his usual vigour.

The Captain, at a very great expence and much entreaty, procured some wine—fowls were plenty, and he kindly undertook the office of purveyor, cook and nurse; and by his kind attention, with the assistance of heaven, Mr. Cameron was in a few days able to walk out with him. It was not till then, that Captain Wilcox attempted to hold any conversation with his patient, except such as immediately related to his health.

One fine day, the Captain proposed going on board the vessel, which lay at anchor about a quarter of a mile from the shore. Cameron assented, and they immediately set out. In the course of this day's conversation, they became mutually known to each other. Mr. Cameron disclosed circumstantially, every thing relative to his friends in Constantinople—his own adventures and misfortunes—his business in Persia, and his resolution not to return without the ladies.

The Captain generously embraced him. "Cameron," said he, "you are possessed of a noble soul, and I should consider myself worse than an infidel, if I was capable of wounding your feelings by withholding the hand of friendship. My sister I love most dearly—I well know if she is not recovered soon, the remembrance of her loss will plant a dagger in the heart of my mother ; but as I am convinced your intentions with regard to her, were strictly honorable, I assure you of my forgiveness and friendship ; and if she is irrecoverably gone, we must endeavor to sustain the shock with firmness, and console ourselves with the reflection that our virtuous intentions far exceeded our foresight. But since fortune has brought us together, and you give me such pleasing assurances of the prosperous situation of our friends in Constantinople, I am determined to accompany you to Isfahan ; as it is but very lately I left that city, I expect to find some friends who will gladly assist us in our research."

Mr. Cameron was quite overwhelmed with the continued kindness and generosity ; and his offer of accompanying, afforded him the most genuine satisfaction. His health being firmly established, they set out for Ardevil, three hundred and thirty-three miles from Isfahan, nearly the centre between the places of departure and destination.

Just before their departure, Captain Wilcox learnt of the host, that according to his description, the objects of their pursuit had lodged there, on their way to

Ardevil, and that the ladies seemed in great distress—having never laid down, but walked backwards and forwards the whole night, crying and sobbing most bitterly.

In consequence of this intelligence, they resolved to lose no time; and therefore pressed forward with more than ordinary speed. One fine evening, the moon rising in her full splendor, and the cooling zephyrs having dissipated the sultry beams of the day, afforded them such delightful sensations, that they determined to ride all night.

The point of time we are now speaking of, was the very day after that on which Kerim received the news of the revolt. Just as the day began to dawn, they were surrounded by a detachment of cavalry, and having no means for defence or flight, they were conducted to Casbin, and there closely confined as spies, until that sanguinary scene was past. Captain Wilcox, however, at last, with the never-failing influence of a sum of money, prevailed on his keeper to make application to the principal magistrate to have them brought to trial, if there was any accusation against them; and if not, to be set at liberty, and be permitted to proceed on their journey. The result of this application was, their being conducted under a strong guard to Isfahan, to be examined by the Sophi, as the Magistrates of Casbin concurred in the opinion of their being Russians in disguise, in the interest of the rebel chief; but, admitting that to be the case, they knew not what to do with

them. Though this circumstance was by no means a pleasing one, yet, conscious of their innocence, they were not without hopes of a discharge, if justice could be obtained.—We will leave them on their journey, and look after Mercutio and his companions.

The day preceding that fixed on for their departure Kerim devoted entirely to conversation with his friends; and though it was the last, in all human probability, they would ever meet together, it was spent in the usual unrestrained manner; and whatever might be thought, not a single expression escaped one of the company, which had the smallest tendency to remind them of their approaching separation, until late at night. Kerim in the most serious manner, enjoined Mercutio to write from every stage of their journey, and pointed out a very eligible plan of correspondence from England by the way of Russia.

He informed them, that they would be at no trouble about their passage to Astracan, as there was a vessel ready to receive and carry them as far up the Walgo-river as they thought proper to sail.

“And now, my inestimable friends,” said he, “I feel myself unable to support the painful emotions which I am very sensible a separation will inevitably excite; therefore, may the Supreme Disposer of all events confer on you all, every thing requisite to constitute your temporal and eternal happiness!”—As he pronoun-

And these last words, he arose from his sofa, and laying his hand on his turban, said——“ Kerim bids you adieu!” A private door opened, and he instantly disappeared: Mercutio arose to intercept him—but he was gone, and the door shut with a spring.

Egyptian darkness eclipsing the meridian sun, could not have had a more instantaneous, powerful effect on their corporeal as well as mental faculties, than had this sudden exit of the Sophi! An irresistible stupor diffused itself over the whole company: They for some moments sat silent and motionless as so many statues!

Abbass, first resuming the conversation, informed them, that his father had apprized him of his intention in the morning, assigning the same reason he had hinted to them a few minutes past; and added, that he had obtained his permission to accompany them to the Caspian sea, “ I have, (said he) repeatedly pressed my father for leave to accompany you to England; but his answer was uniformly this, that the loss of you would most sensibly afflict him—and if I should go, there would remain no manner of consolation for him—his palace would become a prison, and his gardens deserts: In short, every surrounding object would awaken the painful reflection of pleasures, which were never to return, which he was sure would soon put a period to his existence. “ For these reasons, my son,” he would add, “ your request cannot at present be granted—but it is possible, that time may in some measure reconcile me

to my fate—when I shall hear of their being safely settled in their native country—and when I am sure of your having such a company of honorable friends to receive and welcome you in Europe, I will not withhold my consent : In the mean time, my Abbass, be content. To tell you how ardently I love you—how near your interest and your pleasures concern me, would be a waste of time and language. I shall take my final leave of them this night suddenly : They may (but they know me well) suppose my behavior on the occasion rather abrupt,—and my reason for giving you these hints, is in order that you may explain and place the matter in such a point of view as may remove every doubt of the continuance of that unshaken regard which I had and do still retain for them.”

The night being far advanced, they retired to rest for the last time under the roof of the more than hospitable monarch of Persia—while Abbass went to issue the necessary and special orders for the early attendance of the guards, &c.

Before the Oriental beams had gladdened their horizon, Mercutio and his friends arose ; but found the vigilant, and no less affectionate Abbass at the gate. A troop of one hundred horse waited to escort them, while two camels bent beneath the weight of the Sophi's bounty.

Every thing in such a state of forwardness, they were ready by the time the sun appeared above the horizon, to set out. Abbass, in all the magnificence of an Eastern Prince, was the foremost to assist Isabella in mounting ; while tears of the most sincere regard bedewed the threshold of the palace as they issued forth.

The weather being uncommonly fine, the journey to the sea side was remarkably pleasant ; and no disagreeable incident intervened, to interrupt their speed or damp their cheerfulness. Arriving at the point of embarkation, they found another instance of Kerim's peculiar regard displayed : A new galley, on the most beautiful construction, built for that particular service, most gorgeously furnished and adorned, lay at anchor in a small cove or inlet, where they could embark with the greatest ease and convenience.

The burthens were by the command of Abbass taken off the camels and conveyed on board the galley. They then embarked, but it was agreed to write one last adieu, and dispatch it to Kerim, before the anchor was weighed : Accordingly, Mercutio set down and penned the following, which was translated by Abbass into Arabic :—

“ MOST VIRTUOUS PRINCE,

“ Long, very long, we have been in a great measure exiled from our native country and dearest connections ; yet, on leaving the Persian confines, we find it impossi-

ble to restrain the tributary tear of gratitude due to the benevolent Kerim, and equally impossible to remain insensible to the pang of separation—a pang which the envious, the selfish and the malevolent are unsusceptible. What then? Can the noble, the generous Kerim, suppose we prefer any nation in the universe to that which gave us breath? Can he conceive that the tear of regret, which we now mingle with the briny billows of the Caspian, is shed for the loss of those distinguished attentions with which we have uniformly been, and still are honored, ever since our arrival in the Persian dominions? No, Kerim, it proceeds from a more exalted, a more noble source. Those emotions which now agitate our bosoms, have their origin in the most sincere friendship; and when we cast the last retrospective glance o'er the cloud-topped Tauris, we shall unite our lamentations, not for leaving Persia, but its Monarch—the best of Men—the best of Princes! To be deprived of society such as this, affords us sufficient cause of regret: This alone is capable of giving us, at this time, any concern.

“Accept, amiable Prince, this departing testimony of our lasting esteem! Preserve it as an acknowledgment of the many and exceedingly great favors with which we are, even now loaded, by the unbounded liberality of Kerim.

“We unite our most ardent prayers for your long and happy reign. May unanimity preside in, and wisdom direct your councils—loyalty pervade the hearts of all

your subjects, and faction be eternally banished from your dominions. Fraught with these sentiments, we bid you a friendly adieu.

“P. S. Abbass sails with us to Astracan—no farther.”

The foregoing was signed by them all ; and it was not till that moment that Abbass conceived the idea of accompanying them to Astracan, which afforded them much satisfaction ; and having sealed and dispatched the letter, Abbass took a few guards on board, and gave orders for the rest to remain on the spot until his return, the anchor was immediately weighed, and the sails expanded to a prosperous breeze : The elastic oars quickly encreased the velocity of the galley, so that they performed the voyage in a short time.

They lay before Astracan forty-eight hours, in which time, Abbass engaged a light vessel to transport him back. His vivacity, however, forsook him, as the time of separation approached, and a visible alteration took place in the appearance of the whole company. However, part they must, and all description would fall infinitely short of its intended purpose, in attempting the scene that took place on the occasion—suffice it to say, they parted with much regret on both sides, and sailed in different directions in the same instant.——And now leaving them on their passage, we will enquire into the fate of Captain Wilcox and Mr. Cameron.

They were on their examination at the very instant in which Abbass arrived. Captain Wilcox's narration procured them not only an honorable release, but the kindest treatment. Nothing could exceed the joy of Mr. Cameron and his fellow traveller, when the Sophi informed them of the safety and unblemished virtue of the two ladies. They resolved to exert all their diligence to overtake Mercutio and his friends; and, if possible, persuade them to repair with them to Constantinople, and there embark for England, in company with Mr. Wilcox and the rest of his friends. They communicated their intention to the Sophi, who persuaded them from the attempt, by assuring them of the little probability of their being overtaken, as he expected they were then at Saratow; and gave it as his opinion, that they had better bend their course towards Trapezon, and from thence, with all possible speed to Constantinople; adding, that by this means, the two parties would very probably make Holland at the same time.

Being convinced of the propriety of pursuing this advice, and the Sophi having read the letter from Mercutio, resolved to write an answer, and commit it to the care of Captain Wilcox. Abbass also, proud of such an opportunity, determined to follow the example of his father, in transmitting to his beloved tutor and friends, a written testimony of his esteem. This done, the Sophi ordered two excellent horses to be completely equipped, instead of their own, which were taken

from them at Casbin; and at parting, forced each of them, notwithstanding reiterated refusals, to accept a large sum of money, which, he jocosely said, was but justly due for false imprisonment.

They reached Constantinople without any interruption, and found their friends in high health—their spirits were greatly exhilarated on seeing Captain Wilcox once more; and when they heard of the safety of the young ladies, their joy was complete.

There being nothing now to detain them in Constantinople, but the want of a vessel to transport them, they began to arrange matters for their departure. Mr. Cameron waited on his uncle as soon as he arrived, and gave a full relation of his good fortune; and as he had not the least cause to doubt of obtaining the approbation of all Mr. Wilcox's family to his marriage with the object of his wishes, he informed his uncle of his resolution to accompany them to Holland, and from thence to England.

The Consul being determined to secure his kinsman's happiness, if possible, before they departed, sent a very polite invitation to Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox, together with all their friends, requesting their company the next day. They waited on him accordingly, when he took the opportunity of heartily congratulating Mr. Wilcox and lady on the recovery of their son and daughter, in doing which, he easily discovered, that Mr. Cameron

stood on firm ground. He therefore hinted the subject to Mr. Wilcox apart, who assured him, he knew of no obstacle between Mr. Cameron and his daughter, provided she had not changed her mind.

This benevolent man then informed them, that he had not been altogether indifferent to their interests; but had taken such effectual measures to serve them, that he had actually recovered the ship in which they sailed from Leghorn, although she had been transferred four different times, and was then at Lemnos. He assured them she would certainly arrive in a few days, together with eight hands, whom he had ransomed, that were taken with Mr. Cameron, and whom he had sent under an experienced pilot to navigate the ship: "With these," he added, "together with a few that may be picked up here, will probably be deemed sufficient, under the command of Captain Wilcox, to navigate her safely to England."

The grateful acknowledgments of these much obliged people, could no longer be suppressed: The favors they had received, were of too great magnitude only to admit of a mere complimentary return;—the sincere effusions of sensibility gushed forth like a torrent from every heart—and tears of gratitude bedewed every cheek. The consciousness of having contributed to the happiness of such a company, who but a few weeks before were condemned to the most ignominious and cruel bondage, must doubtless have afforded the Consul

a heart-felt pleasure ; which, however, was considerably heightened by its having also been a secondary mean of endearing Mr. Cameron still more to the only family in the world to which he most ardently wished to be united.

The expected ship at length arrived, and Captain Wilcox having engaged six additional hands, went on board to put all things in sailing order. This being completed, the Consul furnished him with a Mediterranean pass, and then accompanied all hands on board. Here he presented his nephew with bills on London for fifteen thousand pounds, which, he said, were for his nuptial expences : Then, taking an affectionate farewell of them all, and wishing them a good voyage, returned on shore, while our voyagers invoked the blessings of heaven for their beloved, benevolent benefactor.

As no material occurrence happened to interrupt their voyage or tranquillity, we will leave them without the Streights of Gibraltar, and follow our hero through the Russian territories, on his way to his native country.

He chose that route, not as the nearest, or easiest ; but as the safest. He had been so often foiled in attempting to regain his native land, and the most of his disasters happening in the Mediterranean, he was resolved never to trust himself within the Streights again. They arrived at Moscow without any accident. The ladies bore the fatigue admirably ; however, as the

caravan was not to set out for Peterburgh, in less than ten days, they took up their abode in a very commodious Inn, where every necessary for themselves and their cattle was to be had in abundance, determining to regale themselves with a sight of whatever appeared worthy of observation in that famous city.

Their host, though in the habit of Muscovy, and though he wore a beard of great length, appeared to our travellers to carry about him certain peculiarities of behavior, which inclined them to believe, that he was a native of Great-Britain, or that he certainly must have resided among the English some years: One particular circumstance which strengthened their suspicion was, that although he spoke the Russian dialect alone, yet he understood English perfectly—furnished them with every thing they demanded, and appeared very assiduous, though much on the reserve. They perceived but two females about the house; one, a middle aged Dutch woman, who spoke tolerable English, and the other a young Russian girl: They were, however, both servants, therefore, it was concluded that their host was a widower. Mercutio proposed inviting him to sup with them one night, which was agreed to, as they all possessed a curiosity to know something of his real character, for they did not believe him to be a Russian.

He accepted the invitation. The ladies retired soon after supper, and the glass circulated pretty freely.

They had hitherto never been able to procure an answer to any question but through the medium of his Dutch-house-keeper, or by an assenting nod. Mercutio, however, finding his usual gravity considerably relaxed, addressing him in French, asked him whether he was really what he pretended to be, a Russian. His answer, in a very good style of French, was a negative; and after various turns of conversation, and a few additional bumpers of claret, he freely avowed himself an Englishman. On being asked the reason of his making choice of such a place and employment, secluded from the company of every person who could discourse with him in his own language; and contrary to the inclinations of mankind in general, to conform to the language, customs, and even dress of a foreign nation, in every respect totally different from his own? He hinted that every nation in the world, had it its own peculiarities, pleasures and inconveniencies: That he was as completely reconciled to those of Russia, as if he was a native; that although the rough and disagreeable countenances of the Russians disgusted him on his first arrival, he had discovered, while serving in their army, many valuable characters; and that the rough outside of the Russians, in general, as well obscured many shining qualities and good hearts, as the insinuating smiles and polished address of some other nations, concealed the avaricious hypocrite and the parasitical pander.

He at length related in English the whole of his adventures. He informed them that he was the son of a

British peer, and had been engaged in an affair of gallantry with a married lady ; that he had been detected in the fact by her husband, and in a rencontre with him on the spot, received a wound which nearly terminated his life ; and that his antagonist immediately left the kingdom and was never heard of afterwards. In short, they found in their Muscovite host, the son of the Earl of Oxford, whom Charles left in his wife's bed-chamber, weltering in his gore, apparently in the agonies of death.

As he concealed no part of the story, his ignorance of the persons to whom he was relating it, was sufficiently obvious, they therefore took care not to let the discourse slack until they learnt the issue of that affair.

He informed them, that his wound was pronounced mortal at the first dressing ; his surgeon declaring it very dangerous to attempt moving him, he was therefore compelled to remain in the very chamber to reflect on the disagreeable consequences of an approaching eternity.

"The third day after" (continued the host) "I was visited by her father-in-law, whose presence covered me with confusion, for I still considered myself as a dead man, the surgeon having given me no encouragement to even hope to recover ; I therefore candidly confessed the whole intrigue, and begged his forgiveness."

"Go, go," said he, "yet, unworthy as you are, I

will not reproach you in your present situation: But remember, your soul hangs over a dreadful abyss; your manifold crimes are crushing you downward, and oh! consider the dreadful consequences of leaving this world with such a weight of guilt unrepented of. The attempt to seduce an unmarried woman is ungenerous, base and cowardly, but not so fatal in its consequences, if it succeeds, as if she is a wife: In the first case, the reputation, peace of mind, and indeed all that could render life desirable to the unhappy victim, is destroyed; and all the hopes of her parents blasted:—In the second, the stigma which will inevitably be fixed on her innocent offspring, if she has children, and the dishonor of her injured husband, the anguish of whose mind, and just spirit of resentment, may perhaps tempt him rashly to take the life of his betrayer, or in the contest lose his own, and perhaps both, adds a three-fold degree of horror to the crime.” Saying these words, he left the room, and meeting his daughter-in-law at the head of the stairs, ordered her to prepare to leave a house on which she had fixed the first stain of adultery, and of blood, the consequence of that adultery. He was deaf to her prayers and entreaties for forgiveness; he spurned her from him, and left the house instantly.

“Notwithstanding the prediction of the surgeon, I was soon out of danger. An application was made at Doctors Commons, and a divorce obtained by the time I was fit to be removed, so we both left the house together. As soon as I was thoroughly recovered, I

married her, and my father being fully informed of the whole affair, disinherited me, and would neither see or receive a letter from me afterwards.

“ In this dilemma I was at a loss what course to take, and at length resolved to endeavor to procure a commission in the army just then going to America ; but was prevailed upon by my wife to abandon the design. She observed, that since her relations had refused all manner of connection and correspondence with her, and being deprived of every friend in the world except myself, she could not think of depending upon the uncertain fate of war for support.

“ Being still able to command about twelve hundred pounds, and with that I determined to fix my residence in Petersburg, until an opportunity might offer of making application to the Empress for a genteel post in the Russian service.

“ I had not been long in that capital before I found means of access to the Princess. She presented me an honorable commission, which I had only borne ten days, when I received orders to attend the new Khan of the Crimea to his government. He was a young Prince of great valor, whom the Empress had newly appointed to the government of that part of her dominions. As my orders were to remain there some months, my wife accompanied me.

“The young Prince was scarcely settled in his government, when a vast body of insurgents, headed by his two brothers, invaded his dominions. He courageously gave them battle, and was supported with unparalleled bravery; yet, he had the mortification to see his army hewn to pieces before his eyes, and himself with a few select friends, obliged to abandon the capital to the rapine and plunder of the invaders. I saw my wife killed with a lance, and was not able to afford her any relief or consolation, being engaged with a force greatly superior to my own, in rescuing the young Prince from a party of Rebels, by whom he had been surrounded and taken.

“We conducted the young Prince by a circuitous route, to Petersburg, when I immediately resigned my commission and retired to this place, which I intend to leave next year, and remove to South-Carolina, in North America, with what I have accumulated, where I expect to end my days, for I am resolved never to return to England.”

As he did not yet appear to have the least knowledge of either Augustus or Charles, both of whom the reader will recollect, he he had seen in England, they resolved to leave him in ignorance. Accordingly, the next day they set forward for Petersburg, along that famous road which Peter the Great caused to be opened through the wilderness, from Petersburg to Moscow, a distance of near five hundred miles, and as straight as a line.

As they stopped to refresh at a small town, within two days journey of Petersburgh, they were met by a company of soldiers on their march. It was evening, and both parties remained in town, till the next day. It happened that the Russian officers quartered at the same inn where our travellers put up. Our hero was much surprized at hearing the commanding officer of the detachment, giving some private directions to a subaltern, in a very familiar style, and in good English. He took an opportunity, when he perceived him at leisure, to ask him where the troops under his command were destined?

He replied to Moscow, on a secret and important expedition. Though this answer was given with the most polite affability, effectually prevented further enquiry; however they discoursed on different subjects, and soon became highly delighted with each other's company. In the mean time, Charles and Augustus were taking a view of the Russian soldiery, and was immediately struck with the appearance of the Lieutenant, who in the same instant recollected and flew to embrace them.

This officer was no other than Mr. Fitzgerald. They were overjoyed to meet him in such an honorable situation, and began to enquire how he had been thus successful in so short a time. After the most eager and friendly enquiries for our hero and Mr. Wilcox, he informed them, that his commander was his own brother,

“But come,” said he, “I must introduce you to him—he already holds you in high estimation from my account, and will be very happy to see you.”

He immediately conducted them to the room where our hero was seated in discourse with his brother. “Here, brother,” said he, “are the gentlemen of whom you have so often heard me speak, that I left in Isphahan.” Reciprocal salutations of the warmest friendship were exchanged, and Mercutio proposed spending the evening together, which being assented to, the two Fitzgeralds were introduced to the ladies. The evening was spent in the most convivial manner; in the course of which our hero and his companions collected full information on the subject of the secret expedition to Moscow.

The Empress had received private and certain intelligence of a combination then forming, between a young reckless Prince of the Don Cossacs, and the heads of the Calmuc, Circassian and Georgian Tribes, to seize on Moscow, and proclaim the young Cossac Emperor. They had emissaries in all parts of Moscow, who were paving the way to a general revolt, among whom, was their late quondam host. It was to secure those principal mal-contents, and to convey them to Petersburg, that Colonel Fitzgerald was leading his detachment: A formidable body of horse and foot were to follow in ten days, in order to support Moscow if attacked.

In the morning they took an affectionate leave of each other, and proceeded on their respective routes. Our travellers remained in Peterburgh fourteen days, waiting for a Dutch Galliot, which lay in the Mole at Cronstadt ; and the very day they warped out of the Mole, they heard of the arrival of the Conspirators from Moscow, one hundred and thirty-five in number ; and on their arrival in the Sound at Elfsineur, they got a list of the names of those who suffered decapitation, among whom they discovered their landlord—and but fifteen only escaped.

Mr. Wilcox and his company had been three weeks in Amsterdam previous to their arrival, waiting for them, that they might altogether embark for Liverpool. Language, however descriptive, would fall infinitely short of doing justice to this reunion of parties. Love parental, fraternal, filial and conjugal, together with the most unadulterated friendship were interchanged—and the most flattering prospects of approaching happiness, conspired to diffuse a general joy over the whole groupe. Nothing short of celestial bliss could have made any addition to their enjoyments on this occasion—the charms of the ladies seemed to derive new lustre from this change of circumstances and climate—and Captain Wilcox felt the full force of those of Miss Sydney.

Their trip to Liverpool was short, safe and pleasant, and our hero once more set his foot on British ground ! in high health, with riches sufficient to support a large

family in the first style of magnificence, for many years, without any material diminution; for Kerim had made choice of the most valuable gems in his dominions, besides an immense sum of money, as a token of his respect for him, Charles and Augustus.

Our hero, Charles, Augustus, Eugenio, Mr. Savigny, Isabella and Terentia, were prevailed on to remain in Liverpool, until the nuptials of Mr. Cameron with Miss Wilcox, which was fixed at the distance of two weeks, and though it appeared an age, yet they could not refuse to stay; and Captain Wilcox managed his affairs so prudently, that Miss Sydney gave him her hand on the same day.

Two days after the celebration of the nuptials, our hero with all his London friends set out for the metropolis, in two post chaises, and George promised to follow in a few days. They had previously committed a principal part of their treasure to the care of old Mr. Wilcox, in order to have it remitted to London by the stage waggon; the remainder, with their wearing apparel was packed in portmanteaus, and placed behind one of the carriages, which went foremost, and Eugenio's servant rode behind on the other.

Between Hitchin and Barnet, within nine miles of the latter, four well dressed horsemen, attended by two servants in genteel liveries, passed them—they looked

into the carriages as they came along side, but made no stop.

Crossing a heath, after sunset, they were alarmed with the shrieks of women at a distance to the right. Mercutio immediately proposed going to their relief, his friends agreed, and they jumped out, drew their swords, and advanced to the spot from whence the cries proceeded, leaving Mr. Savigny, Eugenio's servant and the two postillions to guard the ladies and property. When they arrived at the scene of action, they found one man engaged at the points with two, and two ladies weeping, and struggling to prevent being mounted on horseback, which four men were striving to effect. Our hero immediately flew to the assistance of the gentleman, who was wounded in the sword-arm; the other three went to relieve the ladies, whose cries were redoubled when they perceived help at hand. The ravishers immediately quitted their prey, and drew to defend themselves. The ladies terrified, almost to death, placed themselves behind their deliverers, who bore so hard on their antagonists, that three of them ran off, mounted their horses and disappeared, leaving their wounded companion grovelling in dust and blood. Mercutio made short work with his man, having dispatched him the very second thrust, and the old gentleman had wounded the other so that he could not make his escape.

Having overthrown this banditti, they had but just time to ask the ladies which way they travelled, when they heard the report of two pistols, which appeared to them to have been discharged where they had left their company and carriages : This threw them into the utmost consternation—they ran precipitately to the spot, without saying a single word more to the strangers.

It seems that very soon after they had gone to the relief of the strangers, Eugenio's servant, who, as well as the postillions, had dismounted, and while he was discouraging with them, observed three men carrying off one of the portmanteaus from behind the chaise, having cut the straps with which it was fastened. He ran to his horse, pulled out his pistols and discharged one of them at the robbers, one of whom dropped, but as he fell, discharged his own pistol at random, which unfortunately killed one of the postillions. The other two immediately took to their heels and escaped, leaving their booty behind.

Our hero and his companions arrived just in time to see the portmanteau replaced. The ladies were extremely frightened ; however, as they had received no other damage, the gentlemen re-entered the carriages, and taking the body of the postillion, drove on to Barnet as fast as possible—Eugenio's man supplying the place of the deceased postillion.

Although it was late when they reached Barnet, they went immediately before a magistrate, and gave a full and circumstantial account of their evening's adventure: The justice promised to use his utmost endeavors to have the robbers apprehended and brought to punishment.

They staid in town until the postillion was interred, and then set out for London, where they arrived in safety, and put up at the Green Dragon, in Piccadilly, from whence our hero dispatched a porter with a note to his father, (written by Mr. Savigny) as from some friends from Oxfordshire, requesting permission to wait on him in one hour.—The answer was, he should expect them with pleasure.

Mercutio dispatched the carriages, and sent for two hackney coaches, in which they set forward to his father's. They were conducted into a parlour, where they were immediately joined by that gentleman. He thanked them for the honor of the visit, and kindly bid them welcome.

Our hero intended to have kept himself concealed for some time; but who can withstand the ties of nature?—filial love, like the overwhelming Nile, bore down every opposing idea. He sprang forward, and, on his knees, clasping those of his father, exclaimed, "Gracious heaven! do I once more see and embrace my honored

father ! Behold, your long lost son !” His father, amazed, raised and ardently embraced him. “ And art thou still alive ? How has fate conspired to keep thee so long an exile from thy father’s house ? Oh ! Mercutio, your fond mother has never ceased her lamentations since the receipt of your letter from Algiers, which is now a long time since.”

Mercutio, in this critical moment, presented Isabella as a daughter-in-law, and the rest of the company as his most intimate and sincere friends.

“ I am doubly happy this day in the recovery of a long lost son, the acquisition of a daughter, who would dignify and add splendor to a throne, and a set of distinguished friends, with whom, though I have not the honor to be acquainted as yet, I promise myself much social satisfaction in our future intercourse.”

Our hero anxiously enquired for his mother, but was informed she had left home about two hours before in company with Charlotte Davenport.

“ Is my dearest Charlotte well ?” interrogated Charles and Augustus together at the same time, respectfully saluting the old gentleman and avowing themselves.

“ My dear friends,” said he, “ I am all astonishment ! She is well—but where, in the name of wonder, or how have you sought out one another ? Charlotte

has been much afflicted—her life indeed was despaired of, when the news from Gibraltar left her no room to doubt of the death of Augustus : This she considered as certain, and expected as a necessary consequence to follow shortly ; however, by the tender assiduity of her friends, she is in some measure restored to tranquillity : But your presence will reanimate her, and your endearing caresses will disperse the gloom of melancholy which has long obscured her from the world”——

“ But where is she ?” hastily interrupted Augustus—
“ I long to see her—to enfold her in these arms—to reciprocate our past griefs, present joys and future hopes—my dearest Charlotte ! I must see her—where is she ?”

“ She went home with Miss Godfrey to Sir Benjamin’s, and we will go there immediately. I expect the ladies will all be there.”—The chariot being away with them, a servant was dispatched for chairs.

“ Well,” continued the old gentleman, “ the events of yesterday evening were unaccountable ; but those of this day are absolutely astonishing.”——“ Pray, Sir,” said Mercutio, “ what were those unaccountable events which you mentioned as having taken place yesterday evening ?” “ Why,” resumed his father, “ I took Charlotte and Miss Godfrey, in my phaeton, down to Worley Manor, principally indeed, to divert and amuse the former, where we were induced by the extreme

pleasantness of the weather, and the contemplation of the variegated and extensive landscape, which, you know, appears to much greater advantage when opposed to the evening ray, to tarry until the sun was near setting. About four miles from Worley, we were attacked and surrounded by six Russians (Robbers they were not) well armed and mounted. Two of them stopped the horses, while two more clapping the points of their swords to my breast, threatened me with an instantaneous dispatch, if I only offered the least resistance, or uttered a single word; and the other two seizing the ladies, forced them out of the carriage—They shrieked aloud, and struggled to disengage themselves. The two who were at the horses heads, dismounting, led their horses in order to assist their companions in forcing the ladies to mount. Just at this critical instant, four strangers appeared with drawn swords.

“I had sprang out of the phaeton, and was engaged with the two who had me in charge, and had received a slight scratch in this arm, when one of the strangers came to my assistance, who dispatched one of the assassins in a trice, and I wounded the other, I believe, mortally. By this time, the strangers had put three of the four they were engaged with to flight, the other lay dead on the field.

“In the moment I was about to thank our deliverers, we were alarmed by the report of pistols at some distance, they ran speedily towards the spot, and left us in the

greatest amazement. And I have ever since been in the utmost perplexity to account for the several surprising incidents attending this affair : Without being able to form even a bare conjecture of the cause of the attack ; or who the strangers were that flew so readily to our assistance, and why they left us so abruptly on hearing the report of the pistols : I should certainly have followed them, had not the ladies pressed me not to leave them ; so I stepped into the carriage, and drove to town as fast as possible."

" Banish your surprize," said Mercutio, " it was this arm that prostrated the villain who would have assassinated my dear father, (of whom I had then not the least recollection)—the other four were defeated by the generous valor of my friends here. We were passing along the great road towards Barnet, and hearing the cries of the ladies, immediately agreed to go to your relief."

" Miracles ! miracles all !" exclaimed his father, " all bounteous Providence ! Unsearchable are thy ways, gracious God ! But a few hours past, my life was exposed to the greedy swords of assassins—suspended by a single hair over the dreary gulph of death ! Even then, in that critical moment, it was preserved by a son, doubtless sent by Thee, long lamented as dead ; or what would have been infinitely worse, groaning, expiring daily, under the most vindictive torture of Turkish bondage. And you, my dear friend," addressing Au-

gustus, "have been highly favored, in being employed as a guardian angel—in being sent to preserve and protect the honor of the tenderest, most faithful of partners, who is deserving of all your esteem." The arrival of the chairs interrupted the discourse.

Their reception at Sir Benjamin's was such as might have been expected. The surprize, however, which the sudden appearance of Mercutio and Augustus inspired, and the want of caution in their introduction, had like to have been productive of dangerous consequences: The old lady and Charlotte, swooned in the same moment; however, a few minutes restored them to new life—to pleasures to which they had been long estranged.

Joy sparkled in every eye present—a thousand maternal kisses were impressed on the lips of his exulting mother—a thousand conjugal ones fell to the share of Augustus, while entranced on the bosom of the enraptured Charlotte. Isabella was already tenderly embraced as a beloved daughter, by her tender parents, which rendered her happiness, as well as that of Mercutio, complete; and every heart beat in perfect unison with those immediately concerned.

Dinner interrupted this extatic scene, after which Eugenio took leave of his friends, and with Terentia and Mr. Savigny, set out for his father's in great George street; but before he reached the house, the Escutcheon

informed him of his father's decease. Augustus remained at Sir Benjamin's, and Charles returned with Mercutio to his father's.

Our hero's relation of his adventures, which was indispensable, occupied most of the evening—some parts, for particular reasons (which the reader's reflection will readily discover) he suppressed. His parents were amazed at the story, but overjoyed with the result; and the fluctuating emotions of their souls were conspicuous in the changes of their countenances, while he related the various, and to them interesting incidents of which his narrative was composed.

It is worthy of remark, that though Mercutio's connection with Isabella, had been sanctioned by a rite of the Church of Rome, which in a Catholic country constitutes a legal marriage; yet, as a member of the Church of England, he considered it in no other light than as a mere espousal. He had some time previous to their marriage, convinced her of the propriety, and apprized her of his intention of keeping separate beds, until this obstacle could be removed—a line of conduct from which they had never deviated.

Early the next day, our hero accompanied his friend Charles to the house of Lord S——, where a scene similar to that exhibited at Sir Benjamin's the preceding day, took place.

The Earl, after listening to Charles's account of their adventures, with profound attention, informed them that the account they had received from their host in Muscow, was in part true ; but a great part utterly false. A divorce, he said, had been obtained, but that he was married to the co-partner of his guilt, was a gross falshood invented for the only purpose of concealing a part of that infamy which was stamped on his every action, and which has at last conducted him to an ignominious and untimely death in a foreign land : No, he took her into keeping, and they cohabited some time together, despised by every person of character—no man, but such as were as abandoned as himself, ever entered his house, which was represented as a perfect sink of debauchery, and he, when abroad was shunned as a pestilence. He seduced a young creature, of obscure parents, to his house, where he effected her ruin ; however, he had not taken sufficient precaution to elude the vigilance of his paramour : She detected him in the very act, and reproached him in the bitterest terms ; accused him of perfidy, and, by a detail of his treatment of herself in particular, enraged the wretch to a degree of madness—he seized a pistol which hung near him, and shot her through the heart. Thus she fell in the prime of life, a victim to the perfidy of a villain and her own levity, weakness and indiscretion—unpitied even by her own father.

His servants, wretches who had been long initiated in the vile practices of their infamous master, were now

his only friends and companions ; they assisted him in confining the other unfortunate creature in a dark room, where they left her, then putting horses to the carriage, and taking as much plate, money and wearing apparel as they thought they could conveniently carry, set off for Gravesend, where he sold the carriage and horses, and took shipping for Russia.

Eugenio, Terentia and Mr. Savigny, met them by appointment at Sir Benjamin's, the same evening, where the two families, with their long lost children, spent the evening, mutually congratulating each other on the happy vicissitudes which had restored them to each other, and concluded with adoring and thanking that awful, invisible, yet omnipotent Being, who in mercy had conducted them through that alarming, and to ordinary minds, insurmountable dangers and difficulties which we have related, to that haven of felicity and security, in which they had at last, happily anchored.

Our hero's happiness was considerably increased that evening, by the appearance of a sister, who, when he left England, was but nine years of age. He found her in the full bloom of beauty, adorned with every feminine grace. She recollected him in an instant, exclaimed, Oh my dear brother ! flew to him, and encircling him in the arms of innocence, embraced him with all the ardor of a fond and real sister.

Charles was deeply smitten with the charms of young Clarissa's person and behavior, and determined, if possible to make her his own. He communicated his sentiments to Mercutio, who approved them and promised him all the assistance in his power to procure his happiness; nor did he forget his promise, for the very next day he proposed the matter to his father, who returned a favorable answer, and Charles was permitted to pay his addresses to, and soon inspired her with sentiments favorable to his wishes.

It was agreed between our hero and Eugenio, (who intended to follow his example) to take the earliest opportunity of having their nuptials re-celebrated. Accordingly a day was appointed at the distance of six weeks. This procrastination was jointly concerted between Mercutio, Charles and Augustus, in hopes Charles's affair would ripen in such time, that their happiness might all commence in one day.

The pressing entreaties of Charles, aided by the persuasions of Mercutio, and the influence of her parents, at length triumphed over the virgin delicacy of Clarissa: She consented to make him happy on the day appointed for the celebration of her brother's nuptials: She however intreated Charles and Mercutio to have the ceremony performed privately; but this request was overruled by the whole family.

The day arrived, they proceeded in coaches to St. James's Church. Their joy on this occasion would have been too exquisite, had not a reflection occurred, which was not conceived till the moment they were advancing towards the sacred altar—which was, that the last time they were assembled in that place, they mournfully assisted at the funeral obsequies of the amiable, much lamented Lucinda, over whose dear remains they then walked in matrimonial procession. Mercutio cast a significant glance at Charles, as if to remind him of their last meeting within those sacred walls; and as a silent reproach for their inadvertancy in overlooking a circumstance which never could be remembered by them without regret, Charlotte dropt a tear of affection when passing over the ashes of her departed sister. Whatever emotions pervaded their minds while walking from the door to the altar, the most awful, and consequently the most proper behavior was observed through the whole ceremony.

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They returned to the house of the Earl of S—, where they dined, in the height of their happiness—genuine felicity pervaded every breast. George Wright and Mr. Cameron were announced. They were introduced by Mercutio, and kindly received. Mrs. Cameron insisted on coming to London, in order to take leave of her earthly redeemer (as she styled Mercutio) previous to her departure for Scotland, where Mr. Cameron's estate lay.

Having now completed my design, in tracing our hero through the various vicissitudes to which he was subjected in the course of his peregrination, and, finding him at last, in his native country, surrounded by his most sincere friends and affectionate relatives, at the very summit of happiness, in the possession of the lovely Isabella, and reinstated in ease and affluence, I shall close my history.

THE END.

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